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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Michael -

I wanted this up to  
Dodie Livingston this am  
asking for a letter for today -

She'll call back &  
let me know if she  
can accommodate us by  
5:00 today -

BRM



# National Conference on Soviet Jewry

## Chairman

Theodore R. Mann

## Vice-Chairpersons

Robert B. Goldmann, New York City

Rabbi David Hill, National Council

of Young Israel

Donald Lefton, Miami

Rita Salberg, Anti-Defamation League

of B'nai B'rith

Nan Wood, National Council of Jewish Women

## Treasurer

Mervin Riseman, American Jewish Committee

## Financial Secretary

Bobbie Abrams, Council of Jewish Federations

## Secretary

Margery Kohrman, Women's American ORT

Immediate Past Chairman

Burton S. Levinson, Los Angeles

## Executive Director

Jerry Goodman

Washington Director

David A. Harris

## Executive Committee

(In Addition to the Officers)

Roslyn K. Brecher, Hadassah

Lucille Brotman, San Diego

Dr. Robert O. Freedman, Baltimore

Rabbi David Goldstein, New Orleans

Philip Lax, B'nai B'rith

Jules Lippert, Union of American

Hebrew Congregations

Elaine Pittell, Hollywood, Fla.

Edward Roblin, Los Angeles

Herbert Rosenthal, Dallas

Daniel Rublin, Bergen County, N.J.

Joseph Smukler, Philadelphia

Joel J. Sprayregen, Chicago

Will Stem, Jewish Labor Committee /

Workmen's Circle

Rabbi Joseph Sternstein, American Zionist

Federation

Marcia Weinberg, Washington, D.C.

## Former Chairmen

Eugene Gold, Jerusalem

Label Katz, \*(deceased), B'nai B'rith

Stanley H. Lowell, New York City

Richard Maass, American Jewish Committee

George Maislen, \*

United Synagogue of America

Rabbi Israel Miller, \*

American Zionist Federation

Rabbi Herschel Schacter, \*

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Lewis H. Weinstein, \* Boston

\* American Jewish Conference

on Soviet Jewry

## Ex-Officio

Marvin E. Frankel, National Lawyers

Committee for Soviet Jewry

Sol Goldstein,

Washington Advisory Committee

Betty Golomb, Commission on Education

Charlotte Jacobson,

Soviet Jewry Research Bureau

Dr. Seymour Lachman, Greater New York

Conference on Soviet Jewry

Jacqueline K. Levine,

Congressional Wives for Soviet Jewry

Bernard White,

Washington Advisory Committee

February 4, 1983

Mr. Michale Gale

Office of the Public Liaison

Old Executive Office Bldg.

Washington, D.C. 2500

Dear Michael,

The 98th Congressional Class for Soviet Jewry, chaired by Steve Bartlett (R-TX) and Mel Levine (D-CA), has already attracted more than fifty freshman members.

A first meeting and reception will be held on Tuesday, February 8 at 5 p.m. in the Rayburn Building. A number of congressmen will be joining national and community Jewish leadership for the event.

Steve Bartlett is in touch with the office of Congressional Liaison at the White House to request a brief statement from President Reagan. Your help in securing such a statement would be most appreciated.

I enclose for your information the letter of invitation for the 98th Class, a list of members and a reference to the 97th Class.

Many thanks.

Sincerely,

David A. Harris

Director

NCSJ Washington Office

DAH:mkb

Encs.

*A coalition of forty major national organizations and over two hundred local community councils and federations*

National Office: 10 East 40th Street, Suite 907, New York, N.Y. 10016 • (212) 679-6122/Cable Address: AMCONSOV, N.Y. • Telex: 237311 NCSJ  
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# 98<sup>th</sup> Congressional Class for Soviet Jewry

Co-Chairmen  
Steve Bartlett (R-TX)  
Mel Levine (D-CA)

November 22, 1982

Mr.

Dear Mr. :

We are presently forming the 98th Congressional Class for Soviet Jewry in cooperation with the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, a coalition of forty major national Jewish organizations and 200 local federations and community relations councils which seeks to improve the condition of Jews in the Soviet Union. The 98th Class will be composed of freshman Members of Congress and will be modeled after the highly successful 97th Congressional Class which consisted of nearly fifty Members elected in 1980.

Since 1971, more than 260,000 Jews have left the Soviet Union, but, recently, the rate of emigration has been declining precipitously (October's figure of 168 emigrants represents an eleven-year low.) There are now well over 10,000 refuseniks (Jews denied emigration visas) in the Soviet Union, some awaiting exit visas as long as ten years, and repression of Jewish religious and cultural self-study efforts continues to increase. Given these circumstances, it is essential that we, the new Members of Congress, show our collective solidarity with Soviet Jews.

The 98th Class will promote "Dear Colleague" letters and legislation that expresses the sense of Congress on this important humanitarian issue. Further, participants will be asked to "adopt" a refusenik family and to advocate on its behalf, and to attend discussions with key figures on the Soviet Jewry issue.

The plight of Soviet Jewry is one of great and growing concern to all those in the United States who care deeply about human rights. While participation in the 98th Class will not require a major time commitment, it will offer an unparalleled opportunity for newly-elected Members to send a strong message to Soviet Jews and to Soviet officials of the ongoing Congressional concern over the fate of the 2.5 million Jews in the USSR.

Please return the enclosed postcard at your earliest convenience. Additional information is available upon request.

Sincerely,

Steve Bartlett  
Congressman-elect (R-TX)

Mel Levine  
Congressman-elect (D-CA)

SB/ML:mkb  
Encs.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 15, 1982

Dear Chris:

On behalf of the President, I would like to thank you for your March 23 letter, cosigned by Congressman Coyne, regarding the establishment of the 97th Congressional Class for Soviet Jewry.

We are grateful to have this information, and you may be assured that we share the concerns you have expressed for the remaining two million Jews in the Soviet Union. I have taken the liberty of sharing your letter with the appropriate staff members here, and please know that we look forward to working with you and your colleagues on this very important issue.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Kenneth M. Duberstein  
Assistant to the President

The Honorable Christopher H. Smith  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

98th CONGRESSIONAL CLASS FOR SOVIET JEWRY MEMBERS AS OF 1/18/83:

BARTLETT, STEVE(R)	DALLAS, TX	1233 LHOB	[CO-CHAIR.]
LEVINE, MEL(D)	LOS ANGELES, CA	502 CHOB	[CO-CHAIR.]
BERMAN, HOWARD(D)	LOS ANGELES, CA	1022 LHOB	
BOXER, BARBARA(D)	SAN FRANCISCO, CA	1517 LHOB	
BRYANT, JOHN(D)	DALLAS, TX	506 CHOB	
BURTON, DAN(R)	INDIANAPOLIS, IN	120 CHOB	
CARR, BOB(D)	LANSING, MI	2439 RHOB	
COLEMAN, RONALD(D)	EL PASO, TX	1017 LHOB	
DURBIN, RICHARD(D)	SPRINGFIELD, ILL	417 CHOB	
LEVIN, SANDER(D)	DETROIT, MI	323 CHOB	
McCAIN, JOHN(R)	PHOENIX, AZ	1123 LHOB	
MOODY, JIM(D)	MILWAUKEE, WI	1631 LHOB	
MORRISON, BRUCE(D)	HAMDEN, CT	437 CHOB	
MRAZEK, ROBERT(D)	LONG ISLAND, NY	509 CHOB	
RICHARDSON, BILL(D)	SANTA FE, NM	1610 LHOB	
SIKORSKI, GERRY(D)	TWIN CITIES, MN	414 CHOB	
SMITH, LARRY(D)	HOLLYWOOD, FL	113 CHOB	
TORRICELLI, ROBERT(D)	METRO, NJ	317 CHOB	
VANDERGRIFF, TOM(D)	FT. WORTH, TX	1529 LHOB	

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BORSKI, ROBERT(D)	PHILADELPHIA, PA	314 CHOB	AS OF 1/27/83
BILIRAKIS, MICHAEL(R)	CLEARWATER, FL	319 CHOB	

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McNULTY, JAMES(D)	TUSCON, AZ	1338 LHOB	AS OF 1/28/83
TOWNS, EDOLPHUS(D)	NY, NY	1009 LHOB	

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MACK, CONNIE III(R)	SARASOTA, FT. MYERS	504 CHOB	AS OF 1/31/83
KOLTER, JOE(D)	BEAVER FALLS, PA	212 CHOB	

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SISISKY, NORMAN(D)	RICHMOND, VA	1429 LHOB	AS OF 2/1/83
ERDREICH, BEN(D)	BIRMINGHAM, AL	512 CHOB	

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KAPTUR, MARCY(D)	TOLEDO, OH	1630 LHOB	AS OF 2/2/83
EVANS, LANE(D)	ROCK ISLAND, ILL	1427 LHOB	

## 98th CONGRESSIONAL CLASS

AS OF 2/3/83

OWENS, MAJOR(D)	BROOKLYN, NY	114	CHOB
SPRATT, JOHN(D)	YORK, SC	1118	LHOB
CHANDLER, ROD(R)	SEATTLE, WA	216	CHOB
MACKAY, BUDDY(D)	GAINESVILLE, FL	503	CHOB
<hr/>			
TORRES, ESTABAN(D)	LOS ANGELES, CA	1740	LHOB
CARPER, THOMAS (D)	DELAWARE	1020	LHOB
LEHMAN, RICHARD(D)	LOS ANGELES, CA	1319	LHOB
THOMAS, LINDSAY(D)	SAVANNAH, GA	421	CHOB
ROWLAND, J. ROY(D)	MASON, GA	513	CHOB
MCCLOSKEY, FRANK(D)	EVANSVILLE, IN	116	CHOB
SLATTERY, JIM(D)	TOPEKA, KS	1729	LHOB
WHEAT, ALAN(D)	KANSAS CITY, MO	1609	LHOB
REID, HARRY(D)	LAS VEGAS, NV	1711	LHOB
VALENTINE, TIM(D)	DURHAM, NC	1107	LHOB
BRITT,ROBIN(D)	GREENSBORO, NC	327	CHOB
KOSTMAYER, PETER(D)	PHILADELPHIA, PA	123	CHOB
ORITZ, SOLOMON(D)	CORPUS CHRISTI, TX	1524	LHOB
BOUCHER, FREDERICK(D)	ASTINGTON, VA	1723	LHOB
WISE, ROBERT(D)	CHARLESTON, W.VA	1725	LHOB
PENNY, TIMOTHY(D)	ROCHESTER, NY	501	CHOB
FEIGHAN, EDWARD(D)	CLEVELAND, OH	1223	LHOB
OLIN, JAMES(D)	ROANOKE, VA	1207	LHOB
COOPER, JIM(D)	SHELBYVILLE, TN	425	CHOB
MOLLOHAN, ALAN(D)	WHEELING, W.VA	516	CHOB

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON  
February 11, 1983

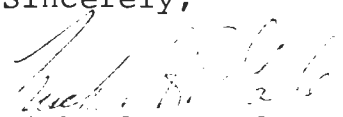
Dear David:

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your successful conference for the Freshman Class for Soviet Jewry. It was with great pleasure that I had the opportunity to deliver the President's message to your gathering.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank you for providing me with a copy of your Soviet Jewry handbook which I have already had an opportunity to review and use. The material that is contained in this handbook is an excellent resource for me in my position as Jewish liaison. It provides a comprehensive overview of the Soviet Jewry issue and will be extremely beneficial in my dealings with members of the Administration as well as with members of the American Jewish community. I look forward to receiving any updates you may issue to the handbook.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to address your gathering and for providing me with a copy of your handbook. I look forward to working with you in the future and if I can ever be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Michael R. Gale  
Deputy Special Assistant  
to the President

Mr. David Harris  
National Conference on Soviet Jewry  
2027 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036



1-11

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## National Conference on Soviet Jewry

NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

THEODORE R. MANN

March 22, 1983

President Ronald Reagan  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Reagan:

Mrs. Kirkpatrick represented our nation with great competence last week at the World Conference on Soviet Jewry held in Jerusalem. The American delegates -- over 500 Jews and Christians from many cities throughout America -- were justifiably proud of her participation, and exceedingly pleased by your message to the Conference, which she read to them.

The purpose of this letter is simply to express my deep sense of appreciation to you, personally and on behalf of the American delegation, both for making Mrs. Kirkpatrick's participation possible and for your own most significant message.

Respectfully,

THEODORE R. MANN

TRM:bjp

cc: Jeane J. Kirkpatrick  
Michael Gale

**COMPLIMENTS  
OF THE  
NATIONAL  
CONFERENCE  
ON  
SOVIET JEWRY**

2027 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20036  
(202) 265-8114

**Shcharanskiy and "Zionist" Tolerance of Nazi Criminals**

(a) Moscow in English for North America 0001 gmt 6 Mar 83

Text of "Moscow Viewpoint" commentary by Valentin Zorin:

If just a few months ago I had asked what Klaus Barbie is, I am sure the absolute majority would not have been able to answer that question. And I am not sure all listeners know the name even now. But there are few in the USA who do not know such names as Shcharanskiy and his ilk. At the UN headquarters in New York there is even a plaza named after that traitor of the Soviet people, found guilty of grave crimes against his home country and convicted in keeping with the legislation operating in the Soviet Union. As for Klaus Barbie and hundreds of others like him, American propaganda and Washington authorities would rather keep their own counsel. It is in the last few weeks only under the pressure of events that American television and newspapers have been forced to fill in their audiences and readers on crimes committed by Klaus Barbie...

Significantly, the American mass media, which due to the present turn-about had to inform their listeners and readers about the Barbie case, would rather keep silent about hundreds of butchers like Barbie who have found refuge in the United States of America. There are quite a few people in America who would like to hold forth and more often than not even to shout about human rights. It is not by chance that at the beginning of this talk I mentioned the name over which the Washington authorities and American propaganda have been raising quite an uproar. I shall not go into the specifics of the anti-patriotic activities of the traitor Shcharanskiy. Quite a lot has been said on that score. I would like to ask this question only: Is double-counting permissible where human rights are concerned? Why is it that Shcharanskiy, convicted for espionage and for other crimes, arouses such an emotional uproar and a host of gratuitous defenders, whereas hundreds of thousands of Soviet people shot and dumped into trenches do not evoke such commiseration, while their killers are living with the American-supplied habeas corpus?

The Zionist organisations fanning the myth about persecution of Jews in the Soviet Union out of all proportion are playing a big part in fuelling the anti-Soviet clamour. It is common knowledge, and the leaders of these organizations know that too, that the Nazis slaughtered hundreds of thousands of Jews during their attack on the Soviet Union. Some of those whose hands are covered with their blood are living in America. Now wouldn't it be pertinent to ask this question: Why are the Zionist leaders so concerned about the fate of the turncoat Shcharanskiy and why don't the ashes of hundreds of thousands killed by Barbie and his kind knock at their hearts? How come that Hitlerite executioners are in the employ of the Central Intelligence Agency and their services are paid with the money taken out of the American taxpayers' pockets? How can upright Americans put up with the fact that dozens and dozens of Barbies are living side by side with them, feeling no fear and no compunction?

As for the morals of those who name a plaza in New York City for the spy Shcharanskiy and at the same time harbour and nurture the Hitlerite killers, there is nothing to be said about that. They can speculate on anything, even on the blood of the victims of Hitlerism. But I for one fail to understand the indifference of many Americans which enables Washington to harbour Nazi killers and butchers and make that an official policy. This indifference surpasses my understanding.

(b) Tass in Russian for abroad 0500 gmt 6 Mar 83

Text of report of 6th March 'Komsomolskaya Pravda' article by Tsezar Solodar, "Collusion between Zionists and Nazis":

On the eve of and during the second world war Zionist emissaries concluded perfidious bargaining deals with the Gestapo, the writer Tsezar Solodar says in 'Komsomolskaya Pravda'. The object of the bargaining were Jews of two kinds, so to speak. The tested Zionist activists, the money-bags and also young people suitable for the colonization of Palestine acquired the opportunity to escape from the countries

occupied by the Nazis. The second kind - millions of poor people misanthropically condemned as the economic and moral dirt of the wide world by the eminent ideologist and organizer of Zionism, Chaim Weizmann - ended up in mobile gas chambers or death camps. The disclosure of each such deal would bring into the open not only the Nazi murderers, but also the Zionist traders in the lives of their poor "fellow believers" the author says. Naturally the Zionist ringleaders are scared to death of such exposures.

The lack of a desire on the part of Zionism to take part in the exposure of Nazis who have evaded retribution is also explained by such half-admissions that their activists allow to slip through their teeth: in so far as some fascist criminals have been able to attain fairly high positions in the FRG, they are capable of obtaining - in revenge for the participation of Zionism in their exposure - a cancellation of the agreements which are advantageous to Tel Aviv, by which the FRG pays Israel reparation for the Jews annihilated by Hitlerism.

Nonetheless the chief reason why the Begin clique and with it also all international Zionism obstinately "do not notice" the flourishing of Nazi criminals today, is because they do not want to argue with their oldest "strategic partner", the article says. The Zionists know that it is the USA which not only helped the overwhelming number of Nazi executioners who escaped the courtroom to hide, not only gave them a substantial and profitable refuge, but also turned them into instructors and teachers of the "sciences" of execution. And it is in this capacity that they have fixed jobs for them in Latin American countries with dictator regimes.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 5, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO MICHAEL GALE

FROM:

JIM MEDAS *JM*

SUBJECT:

PROCLAMATION FOR SOVIET JEWRY SOLIDARITY DAY

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Attached, for your information, is a copy of a proclamation by Governor Robert Orr (R-Indiana) for Soviet Jewry Solidarity Day, March 15th.

# STATE OF INDIANA

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
INDIANAPOLIS

## PROCLAMATION

Executive Order

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS MAY COME, GREETING:

- WHEREAS, the free nations of the world continue to support the tenets of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as recognized by the signatories of the Helsinki Accords; and
- WHEREAS, the right to emigration by Soviet Jewry has been halted under newly formed and more oppressive changes in Soviet Policy; and
- WHEREAS, Soviet Jewry continues to be threatened and deprived of their cultural and linguistic identity; they are victims of severely restrictive religious exercises; and are subject to rank discrimination in higher education and employment; and
- WHEREAS, the annals of the history of mankind records the terrible way by which human rights have been violated and abused; and
- WHEREAS, it is vital that the cause of justice, compassion and humanity for all mankind be attained; and
- WHEREAS, the third World Conference on Soviet Jewry will open in Jerusalem on March 15;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert D. Orr, Governor of the State of Indiana, do hereby proclaim March 15, 1983, as

### SOVIET JEWRY SOLIDARITY DAY

in the State of Indiana, and urge all citizens to raise the banner for the freedom and humane relations among all people in order to make it possible for us all to live a better life.



BY THE GOVERNOR

*Edwin J. Simcox*  
Edwin J. Simcox  
Secretary of State

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed, the great seal of the State of Indiana, at the Capitol, in the city of Indianapolis, this 15th day of March, 1983.

*Robert D. Orr*  
ROBERT D. ORR  
Governor of Indiana

BB-follow-up



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Soviet Jewry Research Bureau

Dr. Seymour Lachman, Greater New York

Conference on Soviet Jewry

Jacqueline K. Levine,

Congressional Wives for Soviet Jewry

Bernard White,

Washington Advisory Committee

April 13, 1983

Mr. Michael Gale  
Office of Public Liason  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Michael:

Per our earlier conversation, this is to confirm your speaking engagement to a group of Philadelphia Hebrew day school students and their parents on Thursday, May 12. I will call you in a few days with the location and time of your presentation. Their teacher has requested that you speak on the Administration's actions on behalf of Soviet Jews and a short comparison of the two countries' governments.

If you have any questions, feel free to call me.

Thanks in advance for your participation.

Sincerely,

Mark B. Levin  
Associate Director,  
Washington Office

MBL:rls

265-8114

A coalition of forty major national organizations and over two hundred local community councils and federations

National Office: 10 East 40th Street, Suite 907, New York, N.Y. 10016 • (212) 679-6122/Cable Address: AMCONSOV, N.Y. • Telex: 237311 NCSJ  
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# National Conference on Soviet Jewry

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Dr. Seymour Lachman, Greater New York

Conference on Soviet Jewry

Jacqueline K. Levine,

Congressional Wives for Soviet Jewry

Bernard White,

Washington Advisory Committee

April 19, 1983

Mr. Michael Gale  
Office of Public Liaison  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Michael:

I am glad you were able to be at the Jerusalem Conference. It was an important event and part of the measure of its success is the Soviet reaction. They've been put on the defensive and have decided to create an aggressive counter-offensive. Their need to justify and explain the position of the Jewish minority is an important byproduct of our meeting.

We appreciate your role in helping bring the Administration's viewpoint before the American delegation, and to the delegates from the many countries represented. This Administration was very ably represented in the person of Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick. Her presence, and the President's remarks, were instrumental in forcing the Soviet Union to respond. Your role in assisting this process was much appreciated by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, and the entire U.S. delegation.

With continued best wishes, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

  
Jerry Goodman  
Executive Director

jg/rb

A coalition of forty major national organizations and over two hundred local community councils and federations

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Washington Office: 2027 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036 • (202) 265-8114





NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOVIET JEWRY  
10 East 40th Street Suite 907  
New York, New York 10016

STATEMENT ON MADRID CONFERENCE

The National Conference on Soviet Jewry remains a firm supporter of the "Helsinki process", which began with the first Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, in Helsinki, in 1975.

We are pleased that the present Administration has viewed the process as an important instrument to help ensure the security of people and nations. While we are aware of the limits of the Helsinki Final Act, the basic accords should continue to be a part of U.S. foreign policy.

We now take note of the final document approved at the current meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Madrid. We are cognizant of the fact that the head of the U.S. delegation, Ambassador Max M. Kampelman, has eloquently articulated the issue of human rights, giving particular attention to the plight of Soviet Jews. We also appreciate the concern of our NATO allies, and of those neutral and non-aligned nations who have supported the U.S. position.

We find little solace, however, in the compromise agreement reached at the Madrid meeting. While we welcome the promise of a follow-up special meeting on human rights scheduled to occur two years hence, and the promise of a meeting on emigration to be held three years hence, Jews in the Soviet Union continue to languish in prison, to suffer increasingly restricted access to higher education and employment, and are victims of a rampant anti-Semitic campaign, including that in the media, organized under the guise of "anti-Zionism".

That two families of Pentecostals have emigrated from the U.S.S.R. may be a sign of hope, and we rejoice in their good fortune. There are, however, between 3 - 400,000 Jews who have taken the first step in the process to be repatriated to Israel, and are still waiting. There are families who have been trying for over a decade. The final document may continue to leave them in limbo, and in peril, for years.

Recent public statements suggest that promises of Soviet action on human rights are soon to be implemented. We await evidence of a positive change in the near future and, of course, we would welcome significant progress.

In the meantime we will continue to monitor events and to speak the truth.

July 28, 1983

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 18, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR HOWARD TEICHER

FROM: MICHAEL R. GALE

SUBJECT: Solidarity Day

On Sunday, May 22nd, the New York Conference on Soviet Jewry will be sponsoring its annual Solidarity Day for Soviet Jewry. Solidarity Day is an annual event which attracts approximately 150,000 people who demonstrate in support of Soviet Jewry.

In the past the Reagan Administration has been represented by Richard Allen and Jeane Kirkpatrick. New York Conference on Soviet Jewry asked Jeane Kirkpatrick to again address them this year. Originally Ambassador Kirkpatrick indicated that she would not do so, unless Judge Clark or the President personally instructed her to do so. However, according to the organization, she has accepted their invitation to address them this Sunday.

In addition, the organization has requested a message from the President to be delivered by Senator D'Amato. This request originated with Ambassador Richard Fairbanks of the State Department. Paula Dobriansky has drafted such a memo and has sent it to Dodie Livingston for her approval. I have contacted Ken Duberstein's office for their approval that Senator D'Amato deliver the message. I have not heard from Duberstein's office, nor have I heard from Dodie Livingston's office.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 9, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR FAITH RYAN WHITTLESEY

THRU: JONATHAN VIPOND III

FROM: MICHAEL R. GALE *MRG*

SUBJECT: Solidarity Day

Solidarity Day for Soviet Jewry will be held on Sunday, May 22nd at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza in New York. The Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry, which sponsors the event, has invited Vice President Bush to be the keynote speaker. Unfortunately, his schedule will not allow him to participate. The Conference has extended an invitation to Ed Meese to serve as the keynote speaker. I would recommend that you send a memo to Mr. Meese recommending his participation. If he is unable to do so, we ought to try to arrange for a member of the Cabinet, possibly, Bill Brock, or maybe Paul Laxalt as Chairman of the Republican National Committee, to represent the Administration.

The President has been very supportive and active in the Soviet Jewry movement. A high level Administration official's participation will underscore the importance the President places on the issue of Soviet Jewry. The failure of the Administration to provide such a high-level representative will be seen in the American Jewish community as a backing away from the President's support of the American Jewish community and of the Soviet Jewry movement. In the past, the Reagan Administration has been represented by Richard Allen in 1981 and Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick in 1982. I have spoken with George Klein who is active in The Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry and he stresses that in order not to send a wrong signal to the American Jewish community and the Soviet Union, we need to have the Administration represented by a high level official as possible. He personally has tried to arrange for Secretary Shultz to attend, but the Secretary's schedule will not permit him to attend. George's bottom line is that basically that the Administration should be represented by a household name.

**The Greater  
New York Conference  
on Soviet Jewry**

212-354-1316

Suite 602 8 West 40th Street New York, N.Y. 10018

To Michael Hale  
From Zosy Schur Date 5/6/83

Please:

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attend to                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Send me information required to answer | <input type="checkbox"/> Does attached meet with your approval?         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Note and return                |   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Note and forward to Files      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For your information        | <input type="checkbox"/> For signature, if you approve and return to me |
| <input type="checkbox"/> See (phone) me re attached     | <input type="checkbox"/> As per conversation                    |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for my signature | <input type="checkbox"/> As requested                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Additional information needed where indicated  |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> For your comments and suggestions      |   |

Other Remarks

*Attached is a copy of the letter I sent to Edwin Meese.*

# The Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry

8 West 40th Street, New York, N.Y. 10018/(212) 354-1316

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Aaron Wine

May 6, 1983

Edwin Meese III  
Counsellor to the President  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Meese:

We are writing to invite you to be the keynote speaker for the more than 150,000 residents of the Greater New York Area who will assemble opposite the United Nations at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza on Sunday afternoon, May 22, 1983, for the 12th annual Solidarity Sunday for Soviet Jewry. This event will be the single largest public manifestation of support for Soviet Jews in the world this year, and your presence would underscore the American commitment to Soviet Jews, as well as deep concern about the virtual halt in Jewish emigration from the USSR.

In the history of the contemporary Soviet Jewry movement, the plight of Soviet Jews has never been more desperate. In recent months, leaders of the Jewish communities in virtually every major Soviet city have been arrested, Soviet anti-Semitism has grown significantly in intensity, and official harassment of Soviet Jewish activists and refuseniks has reached an all-time high. Soviet Jewish emigration has fallen from more than 51,000 in 1979 to a projected total of less than 1,500 this year, and the very survival of the third largest Jewish community in the world is now at stake.

This situation demands a major response in keeping with our nation's tradition of support for those who cherish liberty and religious freedom. We believe you would be an appropriate spokesman for this message in 1983, as someone who shares our concern, and has always been steadfast in his support for this humanitarian cause. Your presence would underscore the importance the Administration attaches to this matter. We would hope your address would also include a personal message from President Reagan, because this year, a special effort is needed to penetrate the Kremlin walls.

Thank you for your consideration. We await your response.

Sincerely yours,

Zeesy Schnur  
Executive Director

Seymour P. Lachman  
Chairman



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# National Conference on Soviet Jewry

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Theodore R. Mann

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Conference on Soviet Jewry

Jacqueline K. Levine,

Congressional Wives for Soviet Jewry

Bernard White,

Washington Advisory Committee

May 27, 1983

Mr. Michael Gale  
Office of Public Liaison  
Old Executive Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20506

Dear Michael:

With the grain negotiations to take place between the United States and the Soviet Union in the very near future, I am writing to ask your help to insure that U.S. concern over the decline in emigration and Soviet treatment of Prisoners of Conscience and refuseniks will be addressed by the American participants at an appropriate time during the discussions.

Also, for your information, I enclose the text of S. Con. Res. 11, sponsored by Senators Mitchell, Packwood and Moynihan, which was adopted by the Senate on April 15, 1983. You will note the reference to raising the Soviet Jewry issue at various contact points, including grain negotiations. A similar resolution in the House (H. Con. Res. 63), now has more than 180 co-sponsors, but has not yet come before the Human Rights Sub-Committee.

With many thanks and much appreciation for your help in this matter.

Sincerely,

David A. Harris, Director  
Washington Office

DAH:rls  
Enc.

*A coalition of forty major national organizations and over two hundred local community councils and federations*

National Office: 10 East 40th Street, Suite 907, New York, N.Y. 10016 • (212) 679-6122/Cable Address: AMCONSOV, N.Y. • Telex: 237311 NCSJ  
Washington Office: 2027 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036 • (202) 265-8114



COMPLIMENTS *Fily*  
OF THE  
NATIONAL  
CONFERENCE  
ON  
SOVIET JEWRY

2027 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20036  
(202) 265-8114



**National  
Conference  
on  
Soviet  
Jewry**

# NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Robin Wilansky  
(212) 679-6122

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
(Feature Story)

"A CRITICAL MOMENT: WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR SOVIET JEWS?"

By Theodore R. Mann

Concerned with the fate of the Soviet Union's two-and-a-half million Jews, we are asking ourselves some hard questions this week. Will Jewish emigration be permitted to resume under the new regime of Yuri Andropov? Will the condition of Soviet Jews worsen or improve?

It is a critical moment. Twenty percent of the entire world Jewish population resides in the Soviet Union. The change in leadership therefore will affect not only Soviet Jews but the entire Jewish community.

Some say that the situation cannot get much worse than it is. Emigration, after all, has already virtually stopped -- only 168 Jews were let out last month. But that is not so. The situation can get much worse.

All dissident movements in the Soviet Union, except one, were decimated over the past decade by the KGB. Yuri Andropov was the head of the KGB. Jewish dissidents were the single exception. While they have been severely harassed, they have been allowed to survive. Most probably, this was because the Soviets believed that their fate was of especial importance to the United States government. Presumably Andropov joined in that decision to make an exception in the case of the Jews. At least one hopes so.

On the other hand, it is not hard to describe how the Soviet Jewish condition could be made infinitely better: Anatoly Shcharansky and the other Jewish prisoners could be released from their jails; the thousands of refuseniks could be allowed to emigrate; a decision could be taken to permit Jewish emigration to Israel at the 1979 rate of 50,000 per year, or even much higher; state-sponsored anti-Semitism and harassment of all activities which give substance to Jewish identity could stop.

Our most optimistic goals can only be reached through a process of negotiation, either between the Soviets and the Israelis, which cannot occur as long as there are no diplomatic relations between them, or between the United States and the Soviet Union, which cannot occur in any meaningful way unless and until relations between the two superpowers begin to thaw.

It would seem to be in the Soviet interest to resume diplomatic relations with Israel. They could thereby gain for themselves a role in Middle East negotiations. The United States has managed to develop and maintain sufficient credibility with most Mideast nations to play a significant role in the evolving political situation in that region. One would think that the Soviets would like to achieve the same status. Nevertheless, they have not done so in the past 15 years, and it is hard to believe that Andropov's ascension to power will make the essential difference.

The more realistic opportunity is that the change of leadership in the Soviet Union might lead to a thaw in US-USSR relations. Jews are let out of the Soviet Union for the same reason that Jewish dissidents have been permitted to exist there: Soviet leaders believe that the safety of Soviet Jews and their right to emigrate are demanded by an American Jewish community influential enough to make the subject important to American governmental leaders.

( More )



Jews have been permitted to leave, therefore, in order to induce better relations with the United States or in order to reward better relations with the United States. At this moment, and for the past two-and-a-half years, East-West relations have been so bad that there has been nothing to reward. And in light of the other very difficult items on the Soviet-American agenda, there is nothing to induce. The Soviets are not likely to believe that if emigration levels are raised, the United States will bend on such critical issues as Poland, the arms race and Afghanistan.

In other words, the immediate fate of Soviet Jews is tied to the relationships between the two superpowers. For that reason, the most pertinent questions we must ask ourselves are questions like: will Andropov seek a period of calmer relations with the United States in order to enable him to concentrate on curing a very ailing Soviet economy? Which will he regard a greater risk to the regime -- the injection of a self-preservation motive into the economy, as the Hungarians have successfully done, or a continuing decline in Soviet productivity? Does he believe that in an arms race with the United States, the Soviets have any chance at all of winning, even if other areas of the economy are sacrificed?

The Reagan Administration has tried to demonstrate to the Soviets for two years now that they cannot over the long term compete with us in the production of both guns and butter; that the American productive capacity is simply too great. One would think, logically, that after two years, the Soviets should be ready, even anxious, to press hard for arms limitations accords.

It is clear now that even if the Reagan defense budget is trimmed somewhat in order to lower a dangerously high deficit, the net result will still be an America with a much more substantial defense budget during the rest of this decade than existed in the 1970s. This does not even take into account the great and growing technological gap between the two superpowers and the resulting superiority of American weapons -- as evidenced by the relative performance of those weapons in the recent Middle East war.

The Reagan Administration's demonstration of America's will and productive capacity may well cause the new leader of the Soviet Union, anxious to address the very real economic problems in that society, to seek a new kind of accommodation with the United States, a detente without Soviet adventurism. One hopes that the Reagan Administration itself will be equally anxious to reach such an accommodation.

The appointment of George Shultz as Secretary of State -- less ideological and more practical than the President -- will make that more likely. Should that occur, the opportunities for achieving a real amelioration of the Soviet-Jewish condition could improve dramatically.

In the end, it all depends on the reader of this article. As noted above, the safety of Soviet Jews and their right to emigrate depend upon Soviet perceptions -- of an American-Jewish community powerful enough, and interested enough, to make the future of Soviet Jews an important subject on the American government's agenda.

We are influential enough. Whether we care enough is the only question; care enough to demand of all our elected representatives, month in and month out, year in and year out, that they help us in this great task of rescue. That depends upon the strength and commitment of the Soviet Jewry movement in all of the cities throughout the United States, and the strength of the Soviet Jewry movement depends entirely upon your personal commitment and cooperation.

(Theodore R. Mann, a prominent Philadelphia lawyer with the firm Mann and Ungar, is Chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. In his article, he assesses future trends in Soviet Jewish emigration in light of recent changes in Soviet leadership.)

December 3, 1982

Dist.: A, 3, 16

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December 3, 1982

Dist.: A, 3, 16

**UPDATE ON SHCHARANSKY: THE HUNGER STRIKE**

Jewish Prisoner of Conscience Anatoly Shcharansky\* began a hunger strike on September 27 in Chistopol prison, a strict regime labor camp. His action was undertaken to protest the Soviet authorities' confiscation of his mail and their refusal to allow him to receive visits from his family, despite such allowances under the Soviet penal system.

His mother, seventy-seven year-old Ida Milgrom, has received no direct contact from him since January 1982 when she visited briefly with him at Chistopol and was shocked by his poor physical appearance. Since then, although in poor health herself, Mrs. Milgrom twice made the arduous near 500-mile journey to the prison site from her Moscow home -- in April and in July -- with hope of seeing her son. Instead, she received only vague information from prison and health officials about his condition.

Mrs. Milgrom fears that Shcharansky's already weakened state, prior to undertaking the hunger strike, coupled with the authorities' continued refusal to release substantial details on his status, may signal that he is "near death." In the absence of visiting the prison and seeing Shcharansky, there are no means to accurately gauge the precarious nature of his status.

On October 10, Mrs. Milgrom visited the Office of Camp Management in Moscow for information on her son. Officials there merely stated that he "is alive" and would not verify her fears. She planned to remain there until she was granted a meeting with members of the Central Committee of the Communist Party regarding her son's situation; officials, however, chose not to acknowledge her demands.

Colonel Vyacheslav L. Romanov, an official from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, told Mrs. Milgrom on November 9 that her son was in "satisfactory health" and that she would be promptly notified should there be any danger to his health. Shortly thereafter, she cabled new Soviet leader Yuri Andropov on Shcharansky's behalf, but was informed by a Central Committee official that her appeals were to be forwarded to the Procurator General in Moscow, Aleksandr M. Rekunkov.

Mrs. Milgrom and her other son, Leonid, were scheduled to depart for Chistopol on November 19. She had again hoped to meet with prison officials to obtain details on Shcharansky's status, and planned to remain close to the camp location until authorities satisfied her request. However, she was confined to her bed on December 1 as a result of extreme emotional and physical stress. Her fragile state was due to concern about her son, who on that same day, entered the 65th day of his hunger strike. Mrs. Milgrom and Leonid were forced to postpone their journey indefinitely.

( over )

Medically, Shcharansky has far exceeded the stage at which irreparable biological deterioration occurs during a hunger strike. Although several variables must be considered (weight, amount of body fat, general health, etc.), nutrition experts at the Cornell University Medical School estimate that a hunger striker can sustain life for 30-35 days if water is ingested.

Many observers believe that the authorities, in an effort to keep Shcharansky alive, are "force-feeding" him with necessary nutrients. However, according to Iosif Mendelevich, a former Prisoner of Conscience who emigrated to Israel in 1980 and who carried on a 54-day hunger strike during his lengthy incarceration, this procedure can be "more painful than a continuous hunger strike" and is a "most fiercely sophisticated form of torture." Mendelevich was artificially fed with nutrients through special tubing. Recalling the inhumane treatment he received, he wrote:

Guards enter the cell, attack the prisoner . . . they force open his mouth with a special instrument . . . A 0.8 centimeter-diameter tube is placed in the prisoner's mouth with direct access to the stomach. 1,000 calories worth of liquid food is poured through the tube. If the hunger striker stops the flow . . . then the tube is shoved up his nose.

Aside from the brutal physical treatment, Mendelevich stated that "this type of feeding harms the body's metabolism and causes painful headaches and stomach aches. As it is given between long breaks, it forces the prisoner to start the hunger strike over and over again."

Although Shcharansky "is alive," as the authorities have stated, his present status remains unknown. Data suggests that his life may nevertheless be endangered.

\*Shcharansky was convicted in 1978 of "treason" and "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda" and sentenced to 13 years in a labor camp.

His wife Avital, who was permitted to emigrate to Israel in 1974, is currently in the United States to call attention to her husband's plight. She has met with United Nations, State Department and White House officials in light of her husband's life-threatening situation.

December 17, 1982

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF SOVIET JEWRY- Speech

The state of Soviet Jewry is indeed perilous. You in this audience know these facts well and I will not repeat them here. I came to underscore to you that this administration knows these facts also and is prepared, within its powers, to act on them.


— Only last week in Helsinki Secretary Schultz raised the treatment of Soviet Jewry with Foreign Minister Gromyko. It was at the top of his agenda - not a boiler plate item appended to the supplementary papers prepared for this meeting.

I want to underscore that point. For the Russians are masters of protocol. They want to believe that groups such as yours can pressure American governments to raise the issue of Soviet jews with them formally and for the record. By now, however, they must realize that the persistence and prominence given to these matters reflect on the part of this Administration personal conviction not merely political convenience.

— Some weeks ago the State Department determined what many of you know first hand - that the problems of anti-semitism in Russia is not simply a matter of folk custom but rather reflects official state policy.

The anti-semitic writings of so-called scholars such as Lev Korneyev who describes Adolf Eichman as a "victim of Zionist terrorists" could not be sustained without official government approval. His ravings - and indeed I can only call them that - have been favorably reviewed in the Soviet official press. Those of us who know and understand the history of the Doctors Plot and the Słansky Trials know too well the implications of last April's creation of an Anti-Zionist Committee of the Soviet Public. For Soviet Jewry - a crackdown has begun - its results are evident to us all.

— This Administration wants better relations with the Soviet Union and will earnestly seek to secure such better relations. However, it will not do so by ignoring the fate of Soviet Jewry. The President's references to Soviet Jewry in his speech last week on Soviet-U.S. relations tell us that - and more important tell the Kremlin that. It is this analysis of recent events that I wish you most earnestly to understand.

I want to further add a personal note. The Rabbis have always regarded the task of Pidyon SheYuyim - ransoming of the captives - to be of especial importance. Indeed the Rambam tells us that the duty to ransom captives supersedes the duty of charity to the poor. (Mattenat Aniyim 8:10). For the purpose of ransoming captives you can take money set aside for building a synogague - so important is this mitzvah  commandment.

Your work for Soviet Jewry is a direct modern analogue of the holy activities of Jewish communities throughout Europe to redeem fellow jews kept in slavery - I commend you for it.

In that regard I want to make one small historical reference - a reference which is important for us to appreciate - at a time when braver men certainly than myself can accept prison terms 12 years or more for the crime of studying Hebrew. In the Kuzari Yehuda Helevi, the greatest medieval jewish poet and theologian, notes that the fact that the jews maintained their religious observance while in captivity made them inconvenient servants for their (in this case Central Asian) captors. Thus, the captors were prepared to sell them back. He states "For the gentiles would have apportioned you among them as their slaves were it not for those dates that you keep with such strict observance" By analogy we can only hope

that the strength of people like Anatol Scharansky and Yosef Begun in maintaining their links to jewish culture and identify, will lead the Kremlin to conclude that convenience might dictate greater freedom for Soviet Jewry, that they too are inconvenient servants.

Thus they - and in an attenuated sense - you - have made of obduracy and stubbornness not a vice but a virtue.

Thank you for allowing me to be with you today.