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COALITION TO FREE SOVIET JEWS*

Free Sons of Israel, Hashachar, American Zionist Federation, New York Board of Rabbis, United Synagogue of America,

Representing concerned organizations in New York City, Long Island, Westchester, Rockland and Bergen Counties.

Rabbinical Council of America, American Jewish Committee, Center for Russian Jewry, Westchester Jewish Conference,

National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, International Network of Children of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, New York Legislators Coalition for Soviet Jewry, B'nai B'rith Youth Organization, Women's League for Conservative Judaism, Queens Council for Soviet Jewry, Brooklyn Coalition for Soviet Jewry, Herut Zionists of America, Rabbinical Assembly, Betar, Council of Jewish Organizations in Civil Service, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, N.Y. Legal Coalition to Free Soviet Jews, Survivors of Nazi Camps and Resistance Fighters, International League for the Repatriation of Russian Jews, Association of Orthodox Jewish Teachers, Poale Agudath Israel, Zionists Organization of America, Jewish Community Council of Canarsie, B'nai B'rith Metropolitan Conference, Warsaw Ghetto Resistance Organization, Rockland County Committee for Soviet Jewry, Association of Reform Rabbis of New York, Labor Zionists Alliance, Women's League for Israel, Staten Island Committee for Soviet Jewry, Americans For Progressive Israel, Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, Jewish War Veterans, B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation, United Jewish Community of Bergen County, Manhattan Coalition for Soviet Jewry, American Jewish Congress, Oceanfront Council for Soviet Jewry, Jewish Association of College Youth/Hillel, American ORT Federation, Queens Jewish Community Council, Emunah Women, Alumni Association Teachers Institute of Seminary College of Jewish Studies, Religious Zionists of America, B'nai Akiva, Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, National Council of Young Israel, Economists for Ida Nudel, Jewish Community House of Bensonhurst, Women's American ORT, Board of Jewish Education, Jewish Teachers Association, AMIT Women, United Synagogue Youth, American Federation of Jewish Fighters, Camp Inmates and Nazi Victims, National Federation of Temple Youth, B'nai Zion, National Conference on Synagogue Youth, Association of Orthodox Jewish Scientists, Noar Mizrahi, Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry, Jersey Action for Soviet Jewry, Washington Heights-Inwood Council for Soviet Jewry, Jewish Labor Committee, Young Israel Collegiates and Young Adults, New York Federation of Reform Synagogues, Workmen's Circle, Pioneer Women, Jewish American Political Affairs Committee, Hadassah, National Council of Jewish Women, B'nai B'rith Women, Masada/ZOA

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019.3

October 10, 1985

Mr. Max Green
Associate Director of the Office of Public Liaison
The White House, Room 197
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Green:

We would like to congratulate you at this time on your recent appointment to the position of Assistant Director of the Office of Public Liaison. We hope that this will be the start of a long, close, productive relationship between our offices.

You are starting your position at a critical time in the future of U.S. - Soviet relations. We hope that the administration continues to take a strong, positive stance in regard to the issue of freedom and human rights for Soviet Jewry. We also hope that in your new capacity, you will be able to see to it that the President is well informed on this crucial issue prior to the November summit meeting, and that he realizes the importance of keeping this a high priority on the U.S. agenda.

Please don't hesitate to call us if there is any information you might need.

Wishing you much success in your new position.

Sincerely,
Zeesy Schnur
Zeesy Schnur
Executive Director

Herbert Kronish
Herbert Kronish
Chairman

ZS:rh

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October 23, 1985

Mr. Max Green
Associate Director of the Office of Public Liaison
The White House, Rm 197
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Green:

The months preceeding the November Reagan/Gorbachev summit are truly ones of hopeful anticipation for many Americans. For the first time in recent years, U.S. and Soviet heads of State are meeting on an agenda which, we are told, will include the issue of human rights. In an effort to impress upon Soviet and U.S. officials the widespread concern that the American public holds for human rights in general, and the future of Jews in the Soviet Union in particular, we at the Coalition to Free Soviet Jews have undertaken a three month public relations and advertising campaign.

The three-month campaign began with large rallies the week of September 23rd, when U.S. Secretary of State Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze addressed the United Nations. It includes advertisements placed in both the Anglo-Jewish press and major newspapers throughout the country.

Enclosed is a reprint of the first two advertisements of the campaign, which appeared in the New York Times and the Washington Post on September 27th and October 23rd. We have plans for further ads to appear timed with the November Reagan/Gorbachev summit meeting, as well as a post-summit advertisement.

We will continue to keep you informed as to the progress of the campaign. If you have any questions or comments please don't hesitate to call.

Sincerely,
Zeesy Schnur
Zeesy Schnur
Executive Director

Herbert Kronish
Herbert Kronish
Chairman

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RECORDING SECRETARY
Naomi Cohen

November 13, 1985

Mr. Max Green
Associate Director of the Office of Public Liaison
The White House, Rm. 197
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Green:

As the Reagan-Gorbachev Geneva summit is rapidly approaching, and we look ahead with hopeful anticipation for its successful outcome, the Coalition to Free Soviet Jews has declared November 15-20 as "Days of Hope for Soviet Jewry and World Peace". These days leading up to the November 19-20 summit conference will be marked by candlelighting ceremonies and other activities to demonstrate concern for Soviet Jews.

On the eve of the summit, November 18, there will be an Interfaith Candle lighting ceremony for Rabbinic and Christian leadership in New York City. You may want to join in your own candle lighting event in the White House. If so, please don't hesitate to contact Shelley Richman, Director of Political Affairs, at (212) 354-1316. She will be happy to supply you with any additional information or help that you might want.

Thank you for your support at this critical time.

Sincerely,
Zeesy Schnur
Zeesy Schnur
Executive Director

Alan Pesky
Alan Pesky
Chairman

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November 19, 1985

Mr. Max Green
Associate Director of the Office of Public Liaison
The White House, Rm 197
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Green:

With the thought that you would be interested in the culmination of the three month advertising campaign coordinated by the Coalition to Free Soviet Jews, we are enclosing our final pre-summit advertisement. The ad appears today in the New York Times, the International Herald Tribune, and selected Anglo-Jewish press timed to coincide with the first day of the Reagan-Gorbachev summit meeting.

The series of advertisements, which you have received to date, were designed to build momentum regarding human rights issues prior to and during the summit. Each of these ads has had a specific message to convey to all parties involved in deciding the fate of Soviet Jewry for years to come. The ads dealt with the plight of Prisoners of Conscience; General Secretary Gorbachev's obligation to deal honestly and realistically with the United States in regard to their treatment of Soviet Jewish refuseniks; and the necessity of establishing an acceptable, humane policy towards Jews in the Soviet Union. Today's ad concludes the pre-summit campaign with a request that General Secretary Gorbachev take advantage of his position as the leader of a world superpower by freeing Soviet Jews. In addition, there will be a post-summit advertisement which you will receive within the next few weeks.

If you have any questions or comments please don't hesitate to call.

Sincerely,
Zeesy Schnur
Zeesy Schnur
Executive Director

Alan Pesky
Alan Pesky
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David Weil
Louis Weiser
Rabbi Avraham Weiss

March 9, 1988

Max Green
Associate Director, Office of Public Liaison
Old Executive Office Building
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Maximilian:

Thanks for joining Eric and I for lunch last week. As always, it was a good chance to talk about the issue and what is going on generally. In particular, I thought your suggestion about a "p.r. initiative," reaching out to columnists and editorial boards and possibly utilizing the "Mobil" space on the op-ed page, was excellent. Eric and I have discussed follow through on that.

I wanted to just remind you about our discussion regarding a public forum. You had promised to come up with some names for us. I'll look forward to seeing that.

Finally, I've enclosed that article from Tass regarding the "Freedom Sunday" rally. I mentioned it to you at lunch.

Thanks again, Max. It was good seeing you and I look forward to speaking to you again soon.

Warm personal regards,



Zeesy Schnur
Executive Director

ZS/kd

encl.



COALITION TO FREE SOVIET JEWS

Free Sons of Israel, Hashachar, American Zionist Federation, New York Board of Rabbis, United Synagogue of America, National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, International Network of Children of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, New York Legislators Coalition for Soviet Jewry, B'nai B'rith Youth Organization, Judaism, Queens Council for Soviet Jewry, Brooklyn Coalition for Soviet Jewry, Herut Zionists of America, Rabbinical Assembly, Betar, Council of Jewish Organizations in Civil Service, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, N.Y. Legal Coalition to Free Soviet Jews, Survivors of Nazi Camps and Resistance Fighters, International League for the Repatriation of Russian Jews, Association of Orthodox Jewish Teachers, Poale Agudath Israel, Zionists Organization of America, Jewish Community Council of Canarsie, B'nai B'rith Metropolitan Conference, Warsaw Ghetto Resistance Organization, Rockland County Committee for Soviet Jewry, Association of Reform Rabbis of New York, Labor Zionists Alliance, Women's League for Israel, Staten Island Committee for Soviet Jewry, Americans For Progressive Israel, Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, Jewish War Veterans, B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation, United Jewish Community of Bergen County, Manhattan Coalition for Soviet Jewry, American Jewish Congress, Oceanfront Council for Soviet Jewry, Jewish Association of College Youth/Hillel, American ORT Federation, Queens Jewish Community Council, Emunah Women, Alumni Association Teachers Institute of Seminary College of Jewish Studies, Religious Zionists of America, B'nai Akiva, Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, National Council of Young Israel, Economists for Ida Nudel, Jewish Community House of Bensonhurst, Women's American ORT, Board of Jewish Education, Jewish Teachers Association, AMIT Women, United Synagogue Youth, American Federation of Jewish Fighters, Camp Inmates and Nazi Victims, National Federation of Temple Youth, B'nai Zion, National Conference on Synagogue Youth, Association of Orthodox Jewish Scientists, Noar Mizrahi, Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry, Jersey Action for Soviet Jewry, Washington Heights-Inwood Council for Soviet Jewry, Jewish Labor Committee, Young Israel Collegiates and Young Adults, New York Federation of Reform Synagogues, Workmen's Circle, Pioneer Women, Jewish American Political Affairs Committee, Hadassah, National Council of Jewish Women, B'nai B'rith Women, Masada/ZOA

Rabbinical Council of America, American Jewish Committee, Center for Russian Jewry, Westchester Jewish Conference, Women's League for Conservative Jewish Education, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, Association of Orthodox Jewish Teachers, Poale Agudath Israel, Zionists Organization of America, Jewish War Veterans, B'nai Akiva, Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, National Council of Young Israel, Economists for Ida Nudel, Jewish Community House of Bensonhurst, Women's American ORT, Board of Jewish Education, Jewish Teachers Association, AMIT Women, United Synagogue Youth, American Federation of Jewish Fighters, Camp Inmates and Nazi Victims, National Federation of Temple Youth, B'nai Zion, National Conference on Synagogue Youth, Association of Orthodox Jewish Scientists, Noar Mizrahi, Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry, Jersey Action for Soviet Jewry, Washington Heights-Inwood Council for Soviet Jewry, Jewish Labor Committee, Young Israel Collegiates and Young Adults, New York Federation of Reform Synagogues, Workmen's Circle, Pioneer Women, Jewish American Political Affairs Committee, Hadassah, National Council of Jewish Women, B'nai B'rith Women, Masada/ZOA

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May 17, 1988

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We wanted to thank you on behalf of Iosif and Inna Begun for the honor of your invitation to the White House ceremony on religious freedom. We were delighted and honored to be of assistance in arranging the Begun's travel and participation.

As with all Americans and people around the world, we have important hopes for your upcoming meeting with General Secretary Gorbachev in Moscow. Your consistent advocacy and strong support for human rights and Soviet Jewry leave us confident that you will again raise the issues of emigration and religious and cultural freedom in your talks. While your advocacy has been critical to our own efforts and recent increases in emigration, we believe that the Moscow summit marks a propitious time to begin negotiations that could lead to a resolution of the Soviet Jewry issue.

We are in a strong position to commence such negotiations with the Soviet leadership. However strong Soviet resistance to comprehensive progress on the Soviet Jewry issue -- and it may be deeply rooted -- the Soviets have much to gain by a comprehensive agreement in this area. Soviet interest and need for an infusion of U.S. trade and commerce is acutely affected by trade-human rights linkage, particularly the Jackson-Vanik Amendment. Moreover, Mr. Gorbachev's strong interest in recasting the image of the Soviet Union in the court of world -- and American -- opinion is also powerfully influenced by Kremlin policies on Soviet Jewry. Finally, Mr. Gorbachev has demonstrated that he is willing to negotiate on issues close to Soviet political sensibilities if, in the calculus of an eventual agreement, more pressing Soviet needs or interests are served. Consequently, we believe that the upcoming summit and subsequent bilateral talks are rife with opportunities to advance our mutual human rights goals.

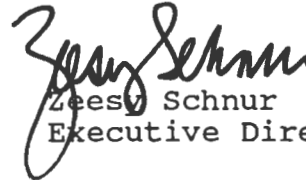
President Ronald Reagan
May 17, 1988
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We deeply appreciate and are energized by your profound personal commitment to Soviet Jewry. Some have recently portrayed your May 4th speech to the National Strategy Forum in Chicago as a softening or alteration in your position. We view your words in the larger context of your unwavering support and activity in the area of human rights. We are concerned, however, that the Soviet leadership may interpret your positivism as pliancy and view your recognition of diminutive progress as absolution for more substantive measures on human rights. Soviet misinterpretation of American resolve would only impede the prospects for ultimate resolution of the Soviet Jewry issue.

Your leadership and that of Secretary Shultz, combined with the power of your convictions, the strength of our position and the confluence of Soviet interests produce an important and perhaps unique opportunity for us all. Mr. President, you have not only our prayers and best wishes for success, but more importantly, the hopes of millions of Soviet Jews.

Respectfully,


Alan D. Pesky
Chairman


Zees Schnur
Executive Director

ADP:ZS/kd

bcc: Max Green