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**AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES**

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Russian immigrant speakers. 1972.

For more information on this collection, please see the finding aid on the  
American Jewish Archives website.

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*file  
possible Russian  
speakers*

## MEMORANDUM

*Date* January 23rd, 1972

*To* Rabbi Friedman

*From* Matthew H. Simon

*Subject*

At your request I met with Anton Grune at the Pardess Hanna Absorption Center. This is his last week at the Center before moving, together with his mother and father, to a permanent address:

107/22 Rechov Abba Silver  
Israelia  
Haifa

AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

Anton is obviously politically oriented and I suspect the impression he made on Americans was due to the freshness of his political opinion as a young Russian. I explained to him that UJA was non-political and that I was personally interested in hearing his story - background, education, what motivated his family to apply for emigration from Russia, what happened and what Israel means to him. Interestingly enough, he had never put this story together before, but he tells a sweet straightforward story of a young boy aged 6 in Levov, being called a "dirty Jew" by neighbors and then running home to ask what a "dirty Jew" was. Still living at home was his maternal grandmother, his paternal grandmother had been sent to Auschwitz and perished there. She sat down with him and explained what it meant to be a Jew and that Jews in Israel had built a homeland that was also his.

The family first applied for a visa in 1966. His father was a senior engineer in a large factory and was immediately demoted to worker status. Anton was then away at college and the authorities did not know that his family had applied for exit visas. He therefore finished school unmolested and is a graduate engineer. The family made ten applications before they finally received their exit visas, leaving behind the grandmother who had first spoken to him about Israel.

Anton Grune is a very sweet young man with passable English. If he is to be a speaker we would need a number of sessions with him so that he could realize the strength of his own personal story. I ascribe to humility his lack of confidence in his saga of growing up in Levov, being educated in the Ukraine, returning to Chernowitz for work and then finally making his way to Israel.

MHS:amg





50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE VOLCANI INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

USA

Onio A5426

Dayton

Wolf Creek Pike 5885

Jim Isaacson

Israel, Pardes-Hana

Meekaz - Klita 219/3

Greene Anton



AMERICAN  
ARCHIVES

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Dear me. Isaacson

Please excuse me my delay in replying to your last letter, but I have been so busy learning Hebrew that I have not paid any attention to anything else. I am sorry and I hope you understand.

I have made plans to commence studying for my M.A. degree at the Technion in Haifa on March 1, 1972. I will be studying in the electrical engineering department under Professor Preminger. I assume that you have heard of him as he often visits the U.S.A.

My father is looking for a job or a business to go into, and my parents are looking for a place to live. Once these things are done everything will be o.k. for them.

Thank you for the prospectus that you sent me. I really appreciated it. Any further information you are able to send about your conference on electrical engineering will also be greatly appreciated.

I hope that you had an enjoyable trip to Israel. Next time you come, I will be honored to have you visit with me. It would give me great pleasure to be able to show you around my new country.

May<sup>t</sup> the time come soon when all American Jews will come to visit Israel and return to ~~live~~ live here. If all the Jews from America lead the way and come to Israel, the Jews from England and France and other countries will follow. Together with the Jews who have come from Russia, Romania, Morocco etc., we will be able to make a big, beautiful and powerful country.

A week ago a large group of American Jews came to visit our Merkaz-Klita and I spoke to them. I told them about my experiences in Russia and coming to Israel, and all my feelings about being able to leave Russia and come to Israel. Some of the group asked me if the government told me to say what I did. I don't understand how they could ask, and I told them

50. I know that you can understand my experiences and my feelings and I hope that the group of American Jews also understand. I want Israel to be a big beautiful and powerful country, and all Jews everywhere must do whatever they can to help. I want all Jews everywhere to come home someday, than I will have all my friends with me. I feel that all Jews are my friends, especially you Mr. Isaacson, and I want all my friends to come home.

The Israeli government is now beginning to pay big attention to the development of business here and soon there will be factories of all kinds everywhere, especially electrical and electrical engineering factories, if businessmen in America and elsewhere help in whatever ways they can, like helping companies here and starting companies here.

When I begin to study at the Technion in Haifa, I may need some technical books, literature etc. If it is alright with you, I will write you what I need, and if you can find the things, without too much trouble, I will be very grateful.

That's all for now. I have to get back to studying Hebrew. Please write a long letter, as I am anxious to hear what you are doing.

I wish you health and wealth and the wisdom to use both to the fullest. I hope that we will see each other next summer.

Your friend

Avi (I am no longer Antony)

January 31, 1972

Jerusalem

ירושלים

TO: Rabbi H.A. Friedman, Jerusalem  
Mr. I. Bernstein, New York  
Mr. C. Vinitzky, Jerusalem

FROM: A. Abrahamson

RE: Mrs. Julia Libman

*in the Graves.*

Mrs. Libman is a recent immigrant from the Soviet Union who had a chance meeting with Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey Kalmanson of South Africa.

Mrs. Libman made a very deep impression upon our friends from South Africa and expressed a strong desire to go to the U.S. for the sole purpose of thanking the Jews of America for what they have done to foster immigration from the Soviet Union to Israel.

Mr. and Mrs. Kalmanson drew our attention to Mrs. Libman and felt very strongly that use should be made of her services. She speaks fluent English and so impressed were they that they are ready to defray the expenses of a possible visit by Mrs. Libman to the U.S. for fundraising purposes.

Mrs. Libman can be contacted at the Mercaz Klita - Pardes Hannah and if it is difficult to speak to her by telephone there, a message can be left with her mother: Mrs. Henny Shrage  
c/o Nursing School  
Tel Hashomar  
Phone - 755225

I would like to know what is finally decided about Mrs. Libman so that I can advise Mr. and Mrs. Kalmanson about what has been done.

*A.A.*

cc: Mr. E.Z. Shapiro  
Mr. S.J. Kreutner

*Pass  
Spa*

טל. 39261

**U | J | A**

המגבית | היהודית | המאוחדת

**UNITED JEWISH APPEAL—Israel Office**

המשרד בישראל:

ירושלים ת.ד. 92 P.O.B. JERUSALEM

Feb. 1st, 1972

To: Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman

From: Meno Millo

The name of the lawyer from the U.S.S.R.  
residing at the Atlit Absorption center  
is Mr. Reuven Baylis.

I left a message at the merkaz klita that  
he should wait for you on Mon. Feb. 7th

Morley Zifursky - said this  
guy Baylis was essentially  
negative in his attitude  
toward Israel.  
Confusing!

February 4th, 1972

Rabbi Herbert Friedman

Matthew H. Simon

Interview with Dr. Alexander Machinson

On Thursday, February 3rd, I met with Dr. and Mrs. Alexander Machinson at the Absorption Center in Pardess Hanna. This is a young couple in their early thirties, who came to Israel from Riga in December, 1971, with their two children and her parents. He is an anaesthetist and will begin working at Beilinson Hospital next week. She is a dentist.

Both are from Yiddishist families and grew up in homes of Jewish culture. During the war they were moved to Kazakstan and following their medical training they were sent by the Russian Government, for three years.

By Russian standards they are obviously affluent and successful and are interested in seeking the good life in Israel as they sought it in Riga. Mrs. Machinson speaks with great feeling, although her English is poorer than her husband's, (her Yiddish is excellent while his is not). Alexander Machinson comes across as being security conscious without much of the idealism reflected by his wife.

Of the two, she would be an excellent speaker, albeit in broken English. He certainly can be used in Israel if visiting Missions wish to speak to a young Russian, highly educated and professionally trained.

MHS:amg



February 4th, 1972

Rabbi Herbert Friedman

Matthew H. Simon

Interview with Anatole Portachnikov

On Wednesday, February, 2nd, at lunch and again in the evening, I met with Anatole Portachnikov at the Yelin Teachers Training Seminary in Bet Hakerem. Anatole speaks stilted but perfect English in a soft voice, but with obvious vigour and a clear understanding of issues. He arrived in Israel from Kiev in the fall of 1971, within a month of his first request for a visa. He ascribes his quick exodus to the fact that he was known by the Ukrainians as a Jewish political activist and he and his family had long prison records. He is personally friendly with most of the Jewish activists whose names we have seen in the headlines around the world.

In the 1930's, under Stalin, his grandfather was arrested for Zionist activities and died in prison. His father, who was a physician, on the faculty of the University of Kiev, was arrested at the time of the doctors' plot, but he died before there was any trial or imprisonment.

In the mid-1950's Anatole, together with colleagues, wrote a number of pamphlets demanding Jewish minority rights in Russia, in keeping with social democracy and liberalism. He was not personally interested in Israel at this time, but rather in allowing Russian Jews the right to open schools, theaters, cultural centers, etc. He was arrested and sentenced to six years in a labor camp, but after 4 1/2 years he was released under Khrushchev. In the 1960's he retained his friendship with others who had been in the labor camps, or were still in labor camps, and applied for an exit visa in 1971. He delayed asking for a visa until 1972 because he wished to make arrangements for his entire extended family, numbering six, to leave together. He achieved this by selling his father's apartment to pay for the visas.

His family has been settled in Dimona where his immediate family is a wife and child. In Jerusalem he studies at an ulpan in the morning and in the afternoon he is being retrained to be an English instructor in the Israeli school system. He would be an excellent speaker for UJAF

MHS:ang

February 3rd, 1972

Rabbi Herbert Friedman

Matthew H. Simon

Interview with Shlomo Shoham

Wednesday night, February 2nd, I met with Shlomo Shoham at the Yelin Teachers Training Seminary in Bet Hekerem, in Jerusalem. Shlomo is 47 years old and was a graduate of the Hebrew Gymnasium in Kovna, before World War 2 began. In 1940, after the Stalin-Hitler pact, he and his family were arrested by the Russians and deported to Kazakstan together with other known Jewish intellectuals who had vigorously opposed the Stalin-Hitler pact.

In 1942 he joined the Red Army and when the war ended he was in Berlin as an English-German interpreter for the Russian Command.

Between 1946 and 1948, when there was still much confusion in Eastern Europe, Shlomo arranged through his political connections, for members of his family to escape over the border to Western Europe and from there to Israel. However, in 1948 when he tried himself to escape he was arrested and sentenced to six years in two different labor camps. His future wife was also one of the group sent to one of the labor camps. Following his time in custody, Shlomo returned to Vilna where he was a member of a number of Jewish circles and where he worked as an English translator. He began applying for an exit visa soon after the Six Day War. His applications were rejected a number of times until December 1971 when, together with his wife and teenage daughter, he came to Israel.

Shlomo would be an excellent speaker for UJA. He is a most knowledgeable Jew, albeit a bit glib in his own idiom. He retains contact with Jewish circles in Vilna.

MHS:ang

February 28th, 1972

Mr. Moshe Rivlin  
Director General  
Jewish Agency  
Jerusalem.

Dear Moshe,

I think you will be interested in the telex which arrived this morning:

"REQUEST FOR RUSSIAN IMMIGRANTS INCREASING STOP NEED MINIMUM  
FOUR MARCH STOP DID NOT RECEIVE OUR COMPLEMENT FOR FEBRUARY  
BECAUSE AGENCY WAS NOT ABLE CLEAR VISAS IN TIME STOP MY WIRES  
TO RIVLIN WERE TO TELL HIM DAYS WERE PASSING AND RUSSIANS WERE  
STILL ABSENT STOP ALSO GAVE HIM IDEA OF PERSON WE NEED AND GAVE  
HIM EXAMPLES LIKE JULIA WEINER ALLA RUSINEK TIGA VASKIN STOP  
MUST HAVE DEFINITIVE WORD FROM JERUSALEM AS TO WHEN RUSSIANS WILL  
COME STOP WE CANNOT CONTINUE SCHEDULING THEM WITH INDEFINITE ARRIVAL  
DATES WHICH ARE CONTINUALLY POSTPONED STOP BERNSTEIN"

Most sincerely yours,

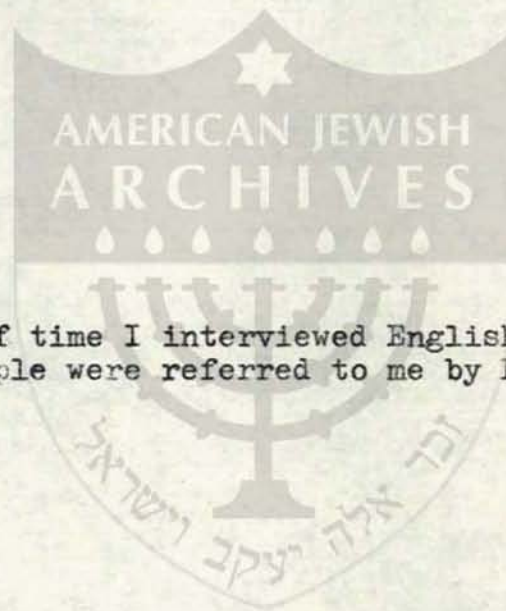
Herbert A. Friedman

Yehuda Dominitz

Matthew H. Simon

February 29th

For a brief period of time I interviewed English speaking Russian immigrants. A couple were referred to me by Dr. Miron Sheskin.





IN FLIGHT

3-16

In route to New York

Dear Herb -

Memo Tulo told me that you could not understand how I got a free ticket on TWA. (Enclosed is part of the stub) Simple. Sid Rubinfeld told me TWA has an Inaugural 747 flight to Israel - if I wanted to go? So I did. But it was crazy. Three days in Israel and 1 day in Paris knocks you out. Anyway, I am glad I came. I got a few things done - our problems with Feltous are being straightened out - I saw 3 Russians whom I liked and plan to bring to New York. The first one is coming April 9, the next around the 20th etc.

Sorry I did not get to see you. Nothing special - just that I like to see you and discuss some of our mutual problems. Well - la prochaine fois.

Are you coming to the States during

P.S. Hope you like the "small" of the letters. one of my bottles broke!

USA EUROPE AFRICA ASIA

the spring? Any idea when? If you do, how about letting us have 3 full days in New York? If I knew early enough, we could try to develop a worthwhile schedule. Will you let me know?

Another item. While I was in Israel I arranged with Meno for a series of 6-8 minutes radio interviews (in Yiddish) with some of the Russian immigrants. We plan to use them regularly on WEVD where UJA now has a regular 1/2 hour program once a week. What do you think about a radio round-table discussion - anchored by you - in Yiddish or English with a number of interesting newcomers. Emphasis on absorption and housing problems. We could use 2 or 3 shows like that - each one to run 20 minutes. (net for "commercials", openings, closings etc) What do you think?

Take care.

As always  
Yours Ellie

✻

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10/04 23.05 ✻

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USANY 620403

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2236 JEVAG IL

USANY 620403

APRIL 10,1972

HERBERT FRIEDMAN JEVAGENCY JERUSALEM

SUGGEST YOU PLAN ON FOUR RADIO PROGRAMS IN ENGLISH WITH RUSSIAN  
NEWCOMERS . 18 MINUTES EACH. PAUL KRESH FORWARDING YOU OUTLINES  
AND SUGGESTIONS IN LETTER TO BE BROUGHT TO ISRAEL ON APRIL 15.

ERNEST MICHEL✻

2236 JEVAG IL..... 5.✻

2236 JEVAG IL

R TLGRAPH JM5



21 March 1972

Mr. Irving Bernstein

Herbert A. Friedman

### Interviews of Russians

I interviewed several Russian immigrants at the suggestion of Mr. Dominitz, who made the appointments. I don't know whom you will decide to invite, so I will give you a short resumé on each one.

1. Mrs. Shpoongin

She is an excellent type. Early middle age. Outgoing personality. Quite comfortable in English. A trained biologist by profession. Good stories to tell and a good manner with which to tell them. Laughs and smiles easily. Self-confident. Short and stocky.

If you decide to take her, she would prefer to go in May, for she needs time to arrange some affairs here.

2. Yafim (Chaim) Tarsiski

Young man, age 25. A bit shy in manner, until he warms up. Soft spoken, thus giving the impression of reticence, until he relaxes and opens up. Neat, well dressed. Friendly smile. Physicist, completed Masters Degree and now wishes to go for PhD. Has won a gold medal in an all-Russian competition in physics; has also published 3 monographs. English is not completely free and fluent, but perfectly comprehensible.

If you take him, he prefers to go as soon as possible, so he can get the trip behind him and get down to work enrolling at the University for his doctoral program.

3. Yafim Savela

He is the famous film producer who was one of the original 24 hunger strikers in the Supreme Soviet Building. Intervention by world-famous film stars, including Charlie Chaplin and Federico Fellini, succeeded in obtaining his release. He went to Paris in June, 1971, where he was widely publicized, including a cover story, no less, in "L'Express," issue #1042, dated 28 June - 4 July, 1971. This brought him to the attention of Baron Edmond de Rotschild, who offered him a place to stay, while he wrote stories of Russian Jewish life.



Rothschild then assisted him in traveling to New York, where he sold his stories to Doubleday.

He is now in an absorption center near Jerusalem, and became the father of a son just 3 weeks ago.

He is a strong, almost tempestuous personality when speaking in Yiddish (and, I imagine, also in Russian). His English is far from fluent, and he fights hard to force himself to speak it. But, I think, on balance, that the power of his personality will overcome language deficiency. He feels Jewish problems with a fierce intensity; has strong criticisms of the manner in which Russian immigrants are being absorbed here; and yet balances those by saying that these criticisms are intended to improve the situation so that more Russian Jews will come here. He feels himself an intense Jewish patriot.

I would certainly recommend that you exploit the French magazine cover, by distributing copies of it at the meetings at which he speaks. This will add tremendously to his stature and authenticity, helping, at the same time, to compensate for the language weakness.

4. Mrs. Ira Sneer

She is a 23 year old young girl whose English is quite competent, but whose personality is a bit weak. As I kept explaining to her the necessity of opening up, so that her audience could feel her impact, she grew stronger in the manner in which she told her story, but when I would relax in my efforts, she would relax in hers. I think she would need several days of coaching. I spent only an hour with her,

-----  
At the absorption center at Atlit, with the Strelitz Mission, I watched two other people actually go through a presentation in front of an audience, responding to questions. They were:

5. Mrs. Fela Elman

She is a teacher of English and translator, 21 years old, married 8 years, has a daughter of 3; husband is an engineer; comes from Riga.

She has complete self-confidence. She has a charming manner, knows the subject matter quite intimately, is quite intelligent and has all the qualities, both of language and personality, which will make her quite good.

She is rather cool, non-emotional, but has a strong voice, and has such strong feelings about Russian Jewry, that I am sure she will come across.

6. Daniel Bludz

He is a lawyer, age 41, from Vilna, whose English has some flaws in it. He speaks slowly and occasionally seeks for a word, but has quite a strong and appealing personality. He is quite earthy and simple; of medium height, and gives off an air of great sincerity. He is so earnest, careful in his formulation, eager to be quite correct and not exaggerate, that it is easy to empathize with him, because the listener senses that the man is being absolutely truthful. He is baldish.

Here again, as in the case of Savela, I would say that the inadequate language is more than compensated for by the total strength of the presentation.

He is a close friend of Simon Frumkin of Los Angeles, who is the strongest activist on the West Coast for Russian Jewry. I don't know his exact title, but I think he is chairman of the student committee on Soviet Jewry. His address is 3755 Goodland Avenue, Studio City, California, 91604.

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Mrs. Elman offered the name of a friend of hers, Mrs. Aviva Cortina, who knows English as well as Mrs. Elman herself. I have not interviewed her, but gave her name to Dominitz, who will meet her himself.

HAF:SS

# Memorandum

to H.A.Friedman  
from Robert Gamzey  
subject David Garber

date April 9,1972

*Russian  
immigrant  
speakers*

Dear Herb:

Last Friday, I had Garber as guest expert on my Oneg Shabbat at Ichud Shivat Zion synagogue in Tel Aviv and I want to strongly recommend him as a UJA speaker at missions in Israel or in U.S. He is a Russian immigrant with an excellent fluent command of English. He was a lawyer in Riga for 25 years and came two years ago to Israel. He works at Ministry of Justice in Tel Aviv. He is forceful, down to earth and held his audience transfixed for an hour with questions and answers. He is a leader of the Russian immigrants association, Prisoners of Zion, and in close touch with newcoming Russians. He is full of fire, in a positive, constructive way, in regards to absorption, and on the urgency of bringing Jews from U.S.S.R. He happens to be well informed about Georgia Jews, having once made a trip to Georgia. I suggest you try him out on a Young Leaders mission and see for yourself. Best regards. *Bob.*

David Garber Home phone 773034. Office phone 611811

Home address, 8 Adarim st. Dorom Zahala.

Office, 39 Nachlat Binyamin, T.A.

He needs a modest fee for travel expense, etc as he is on a meager government salary at lowest level of job grade.

ROBERT [unclear]  
JEW. AGENCY  
P.O. B. 7953 TEL-AVIV

H.A. Friedman

UJA

Jewish Agency

פ' 8117



April 11, 1972

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman  
Executive Vice Chairman  
United Jewish Appeal, Israel Office  
The Jewish Agency  
P.O. Box 92  
Jerusalem, Israel

Dear Herb:

I was with Ernie Michel yesterday when he sent you a telex about the proposed series of interviews for our twenty-minute program on WEVD. He said you would be hearing from me, and so you are.

We already have a Yiddish language program on WEVD which takes the form of a weekly panel discussion. What we are talking about here is an English language program, twenty minutes every Monday evening which we are getting as a dividend.

We are going to make use of this time to conduct a weekly interview show based on personalities and themes that will throw light on the aims of the United Jewish Appeal and its agencies.

What we would like you to do Herb, is to conduct an interview -- directly in English if possible, or with an interpreter where necessary -- about every four weeks with a newcomer from the Soviet. Any interview that can be conducted at Lod Airport would, of course, have dramatic interest, but we would also be most pleased to have interviews with immigrants in various stages of absorption and resettlement talking about their problems.

- more -

Perhaps the best plan would be to do a series of such tapes as quickly as possible, get them all to us and we will stagger them as part of the broadcast series.

I am sure I don't have to spell out for you the sort of questions we want to ask the new arrivals: What do they expect from their new life in Israel? What problems are they facing and what progress has there been in solving these problems? What are their impressions of the new world they have entered? How are they faring in terms of learning a new language, perhaps a new trade or profession? What message do they have for the Jews of America, etc., etc.?

Since this program is being sponsored by the UJA (although the time is given gratis) we will have to respect pressures from Israel not to say anything, under UJA auspices, that might jeopardize continued immigration to Israel of Jews from the Soviet. For this reason I think it would be better to tread lightly on the past experiences of your interviewees when they were in the Soviet and concentrate on their experiences, hopes and problems now that they have reached Israel.

The interviews should be kept down to eighteen minutes each and if it is possible to have more than one person with you -- members of the family say, instead of just one voice -- I am sure that will add to the feeling of being on location in a real situation.

It is all right with us, however, if you want to have these interviews taped in a studio rather than on location with portable equipment. Perhaps it could be worked both ways depending on circumstances. Of course you will need an engineer in either case to operate the tape machine although I would even be happy with stuff taped on a cassette player provided the sound is clear.

I am delighted that you are going to be our interviewer since with your imagination and presence we can look forward to some distinguished and exciting stuff.

If you have any questions before going into this, please send a telex to me here at the New York UJA and I will rush an answer back to you.

Hope you are well and look forward to seeing you in Israel one of these days.

Sincerely,

Paul Kresh

cc - Ernest Michel  
Maryann Isaac  
Barbara Serier PK:lc



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April 17, 1972

Mr. Chaim Vinitzky  
The Jewish Agency  
P.O. Box 92  
Jerusalem, Israel

Dear Chaim:

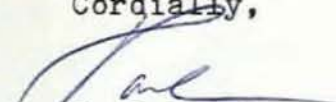
When I spoke to Meno Milo over long distance this morning, he asked me to arrange that you set up the interviews we have asked Herb Friedman to do for our radio series here.

This is an English language program to be heard every Monday evening over WEVD in New York. Many of the shows are being done here in New York but Ernie Michel arranged with Herb Friedman to conduct interviews -- directly in English when possible, with an interpreter where necessary -- with four newcomers from the Soviet. Any interview that could be conducted at Lod Airport would, of course, have dramatic interest but we are also interested in interviews with immigrants in various stages of absorption and resettlement talking about their problems.

I have written to Herb Friedman in some detail about the contents of the interviews which I have asked him to record with a tape recorder, but I understand that it will be your task to set up these interviews and that you wanted a written request from us. This is the written request which Murray Peters instructed me to get off to you right away. I am enclosing a copy of a letter I sent to Herb Friedman on April 11th so that you may know as much about the whole project as he does.

I do hope you will be able to facilitate this for us and look forward to seeing you over there one of these days before too long. If there are any questions, please get in touch with me.

Cordially,



Paul Kresh

**keep the  
promise**

PK:lc  
encl.

United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York  
220 West 58th Street, New York, New York 10019 • Phone (212) 265-2200  
Israel Emergency Fund and General Campaign

UJA  
FROM THE  
GENERAL  
CHAIRMAN

*file  
Russian  
speakers*

May 4, 1972

Dear Herb:

Seven recent Russian immigrants to Israel are speaking on behalf of United Jewish Appeal in hundreds of communities across the country for the remainder of April and during the month of May. I thought you would be interested in the following synopses of their backgrounds:

**FELYA ELMAN:** A delightful, articulate, twenty-seven year old woman from Riga, Mrs. Elman is an English teacher by profession. Her adjustment to Israeli life was so instantaneous that she has been teaching English in a secondary school in Atlit since three days after her arrival in Israel this past January. Felya arrived with her husband, her three year old baby and her parents after waiting two years under most trying circumstances. "In Russia, you are supposed to feel guilty for being born a Jew", says Felya, who comes from an observant family. Her husband, an engineer, has been an active Zionist for nine years, having suffered many indignities at the hands of the KGB.

**PAVEL FEL:** An attractive, sophisticated young man, Pavel Fel has been anxious to migrate to Israel since the Sinai Campaign in 1956 when he was ten years old. "I guess I was born an anti-Communist", he says. "I planned my whole education around the hope of leaving Latvia, my home." Pavel is a linguist by profession, having worked as a translator both in Russia and in Israel where he migrated in May a year ago. His parents joined him in Israel last November through the help of a Rabbi from Phoenix, Arizona who hand-carried his invitation to Leningrad after Pavel's efforts by mail were intercepted three times. His mother was with the Russian Ballet before Pavel was born, while his father fought for the Republican cause in the Spanish Civil War, was interned thereafter in France, served as Captain in the Soviet Army in World War II, and was rewarded for his idealism by being imprisoned after the war for a year and a half.

**BELLA RUBENSTEIN:** Mrs. Rubenstein has spent most of her adult life being shifted about. She had just completed secondary school in 1939 when the Soviets occupied her native country of Lithuania. Her family were all exiled to Siberia in 1941 because of her father's Zionist activities and remained in exile until 1957. Mrs. Rubenstein worked in a labor camp until she was hired as a teacher of German in a secondary school in 1950. She finally began her university education in 1957 majoring in teaching methods of foreign languages while she continued to teach German language and literature in a special German secondary school. She finally completed her university education in 1965, twenty-six years after she graduated from secondary school. Married to a journalist, Mrs. Rubenstein arrived in Israel this past January with her family.

**EFRAIM SEVELA:** Noted Russian film writer and director who migrated to Israel in April of 1971. Mr. Sevela represents one of the more "exotic" job placement problems facing the Jewish Agency's Absorption Department. He was a principal



figure in the resistance in Moscow and took part in an audacious sit-in of 24 Jews at the Supreme Soviet in February 1971. He was permitted to leave the Soviet Union only after a petition on his behalf was signed by 30 international film personalities, including Federico Fellini, Ingmar Bergman and Laurence Olivier. In Moscow, Sevela lived a life of rare privilege. He had a car, a comfortable flat, and was allowed to travel abroad. He was a completely assimilated Russian, yet he did not feel he was a part of Russia. "I decided finally that I wanted to contribute to my own culture. I didn't want to make a Russian culture." His film, "Fit for Non-Combatant Service", has been shown in New York. Three books of stories, "Legends From the Streets of the Disabled", will be published by Doubleday soon.

IRINA SHNER: A most attractive twenty-four year old English teacher, graduate of the University of Moscow, Irina arrived in Israel with her husband in November 1971. She was born in Moscow as were her parents. Her whole orientation is most typical of a young Russian whose grandparents and parents grew up in the Soviet System. Until 1967, she and her whole family thought of their Judaism only as a burden. "To be a Jew was something to be a little ashamed of", says Irina. Her grandfather fought in the Revolution and broke with her and her parents because of their interest in civil rights, humanism and desire to live as free people in Israel. Her mother had rejected the Soviet System of justice during the Stalinist period by refusing her law degree, because "law" was meaningless. Irina's parents "sat-in" at the Presidium last March and were allowed to migrate to Israel at that time.

SHLOMO SHOHAM: A translator by profession, Mr. Shoham has spent most of his life being hunted or imprisoned or in exile. He had a normal happy childhood in Lithuania where he was educated. His family was trapped in Lithuania in 1939 just at the time when they were planning to migrate to Israel, and it took them from 1939 until 1972 to complete that voyage. He was imprisoned in the 1950's for having attempted to migrate to Israel through Poland, was in Siberia in prison for seven years. After that, he was made to live in exile for 12 years, finally being allowed to return to Vilna after his wife died so that his mother could help him raise his daughter.

CHAIM TARASEISKEY: A twenty-five year old brilliant young physicist, Chaim Taraseiskey arrived in Israel last January with his wife and baby, his parents and his grandmother. He places his desire to migrate to Israel back to before he was born, in 1939, when his father was in Palestine as part of the Haganah. He was called back to Vilna because of a death in the family and then was caught up in the war. His whole family were in concentration camps and many of them were killed. His father finally returned to Israel in January 1971, a happy ending to a lifetime of searching. Chaim hopes to continue his education in Israel and has applied for admission to the Weizmann Institute and Hebrew University so that he can work towards his Ph.D. He is concerned that it will be a hard struggle for them, since his wife is also still a student and they have a baby. But he says, "If I am not able to afford to be a student right now, then I shall go to work." His outlook is very hopeful, positive, and constructive.

Sincerely,

