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National Conference on Soviet Jewry, 1975-1976.

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# National Conference on Soviet Jewry

DATE: FEBRUARY 26, 1976

TO: A. Schindler

FROM: JERRY GOODMAN

This message seems to have been prepared for delivery at Brussels II. It was distributed by JDL members to persons returning on the charter flight at JFK airport.

JG:de

Encl.



## A MESSAGE FROM MEIR KAHANE

IN THE NAME OF THE JEWISH DEFENSE LEAGUE I SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING CONCRETE PROGRAM ON BEHALF OF OUR OPPRESSED BRETHREN:

1. An immediate end to all Western talks with the USSR, including talks on Disarmament, Space, Culture and Trade.
2. An embargo on trade with the Soviet Union, with emphasis on grain, as well as a world-wide boycott of all firms dealing with the USSR.
3. An end to general tourism to the Soviet Union, except for that selective tourism which travels to the USSR on behalf of Soviet Jewry.
4. A cessation of all cultural, entertainment and sports exchanges whose purpose in Soviet eyes is the political one deadening the American political consciousness.
5. The suspension of the Soviet Union from international organizations and activities, including the 1976 Olympic Games.
6. Political wooing of anti-Soviet politicians and political pressure on those political leaders who call for detente with no concessions on emigration in return.
  - IN PARTICULAR, A CALL TO AMERICAN JEWRY TO MASS FORCES TO DEFEAT GERALD FORD IN 1976.
7. Legal harrassment of Soviet officials including the picketing of private residents and mass telephone calls to jam Embassy and Consulate lines.
8. Non-violent, civil disobedience (i.e. sitdowns, chain-ins, etc,) to pressure for suspension of contacts with the USSR.
9. The escalation of protests and demonstrations at Soviet installations so that not a week goes by without a major protest taking place.
10. The creation of a similar freedom movement on behalf of our brothers and sisters in Syria that will link their cause to those of the oppressed Jews in the Soviet Union.

ALL THE ABOVE TO BE JOINED BY A RETURN ON THE PART OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE TO THEIR FATHER IN HEAVEN AND TO THE TORAH OF ISRAEL. THE KNOWLEDGE THAT ONLY A RETURN TO AND FAITH IN THE L-RD, G-D OF ISRAEL, WILL BRING A GLORIOUS AND SWIFT FINAL REDEMPTION FOR THE JEWS OF THE SOVIET UNION, SYRIA AND THE WORLD.

## FINAL OPPORTUNITY

Representatives of world Jewry have gathered here in Brussels in what I am convinced is a final opportunity to save Soviet Jewry from what can be tragedy and disaster too terrible to contemplate. Let us not be deceived by the success of recent years in obtaining the release of a limited number of Soviet Jews. Nor dare we assume that the days of Stalinism are irrevocably ended and that a drastic change in policy could not take effect that could very well see physical oppression and persecution of Jews. The time is short and the work is considerable and the question is: What will happen here in Brussels?

Will this Conference, just as the last one, prove to be one incapable of deciding strong, vigorous and concrete proposals? Will it again merely be a gathering of the affluent and the favored, spending large amounts of Jewish public funds to listen to tired and untrue rhetoric, only to close with a meaningless resolution devoid of sincerity and practical proposals? Or will it succeed in grasping the idea that time is short for Soviet Jewry and that political changes are taking place that can rob us of the only weapon that we have against the Kremlin? And understanding this will we decide on a concrete and definite program of Jewish activism based on the principle of a good Jewish head and a good Jewish arm? In a word, will this Conference fail the Soviet Jews who look to it with such longing or will it fulfill the expectations of our brothers and sisters behind the Iron Curtain? It is up to you to decide and it is up to you to adopt a real program here this week that will set the tone for our war on the forces of oppression that refuse to let our people go.

The key to victory for Soviet Jewry lies in the knowledge that detente remains the cornerstone of Soviet policy and in the understanding that if we can block their road to this detente, they will pay to clear the road by allowing Soviet Jews to go free. Unhappily, today, the struggle against detente has become muted and we search in vain for its presence.

There are some silences that are awesomely noisy in their stillness. There is a quiet that speaks words and ideas, loudly and clearly. If one listens carefully he can hear a thunderous message in the silence of detente.

In 1974, when the Soviets abruptly announced that they would not put into force the 1972 trade agreements, panic spread among the Jewish leadership in the United States. It appeared as if the struggle for Soviet Jewry had reached a critical turning point and that the major weapon of the campaign for free emigration - Senator Henry Jackson's efforts to use detente as leverage - was now obsolete. Gloomily many of the Establishment Jews echoed the sonorous Henry Kissinger who chastised Jackson, the Congress and all those who had led the struggle against a detente that gave the Soviets everything in return for nothing substantive on their part in the field of human rights and other concessions. Some of the leading Jews, who had been laggards in the struggle for Soviet Jewry for decades, now warned that the Russians would not be pushed on detente and that the Soviet Jewish struggle would have to take a different and more 'moderate' tack. Most Jews, never politically acute to begin with, invariably confused and obtuse when it came to the ways to achieve Jewish rights, and stricken-along with their leaders, with a depressing lack of imagination and initiative, agreed that "perhaps we had pushed too hard."

President Ford, Kissinger and Treasury Secretary William Simon, as the leaders in the drive for detente and to scuttle the Jackson amendment, seized upon the opportunity with denunciations of the opponents of detente. In his "State of the World" message to Congress on April 10, 1975, Ford took dead aim at Jackson and called for a revision of the trade agreement which would either eliminate or modify restrictions on financial credits to the Soviet Union unless it changed its emigration policies. The following day, Simon told a Moscow radio interviewer that the administration would "Continue efforts to remove barriers" hindering trade. He also took the extraordinary step of openly attacking Congress while in the Soviet Union, saying that Mr. Ford "opposed the actions by our Congress which interrupted the normalization of our trade relations with the Soviet Union." Kissinger, of course, has lost no opportunities to blame Jackson and his allies for the debacle.

It appears that the efforts to carry detente to a successful conclusion may succeed, aided by the original backers of detente at any price - even human freedom - as well as by the silence of timid people, including

(continued...)



Jewish leaders, who have been cowed into believing that only a return to the "quiet diplomacy" of the unlamented yester-years will succeed in persuading the Kremlin to allow Jews to leave.

Heaven forbid, that such a thing come about. It is important that the American Jew and non-Jew alike understand clearly what happened with the Soviet repudiation of the trade agreements, what the Soviets really want, what the state of detente is and what caused the great success in the field of Jewish emigration a few years ago, and what the problem is today and what must be done in the future. At the same time, we will learn a valuable lesson concerning the tactics that must be used against Syria in the struggle to free the Jews, oppressed and trapped there.

To begin with, it can never be said enough times that it was the Jewish militants who understood long before the Jewish Establishment exactly what the weapon of detente was. While the Jewish leadership was either doing nothing or playing games with an absurd "quiet diplomacy" Jewish militants understood that the Soviets never give up anything unless they feel compelled to; that the Soviets are not impressed by world opinion and appeals from intellectuals, artists and movie stars, and that only when the Soviets feel that there is a need for them to pay the price will they reach into their political pockets and take out the coin demanded of them.

And so, many years before Henry Jackson and many years before the rush to back his amendment, Jewish militants in the JDL understood. They understood that the Soviets have an order of priorities and that there are things that they desire more - much more - than to merely hold Soviet Jewry captive. At the top of their order of priorities is that vague and all-encompassing concept known as "detente". The Soviets, of course, never were and are not now interested in detente for its own sake. They have always seen it as a tactic to bring them some badly needed commodities as well as to affect an important psychological change in the west and in the United States.

At the time that the Soviets persuaded the Nixon administration with its Machiavellian Kissinger and opportunistic Nixon to adopt this policy, they were in desperate shape. Few realize how technologically backward and falling-ever-behind, the Soviets were in relation to the United States. The wheat crops and general agricultural schedules were disastrous. Demands for improved consumer standards of living were growing. The Soviets were finding it difficult to produce both guns and butter. The Chinese threat meant that they had to keep massive armies both in the west and east. Simply put, the Soviets needed technology, credits, trade, tourist dollars, and a way to chloroform the west, to put it to sleep, to convince it that there was no more need to spend billions for defense and that time was ripe for massive arms reductions. Detente was a desperate need at the same time as a vital ploy for the Kremlin.

It was knowledge that this need was infinitely more important to the Russians than Jewish emigration or the lack of it, that led the Jewish militants to violently attack Soviet personnel and offices. The JDL understood full well that the Soviet Union, being a super-power, could not simply ignore these attacks but would have to react, react angrily and react in a manner that it did not want. And so, Jewish militants did indeed attack the Soviets and the Soviets did indeed react angrily (recalling their ambassador, attacking Americans in Moscow, cancelling the Bolshoi) and in a matter of months the entire policy of detente that both Moscow and Washington wanted so much, was on the verge of falling apart. After all, shots fired into the Soviet United Nations mission could just as easily have killed a Soviet diplomat and what would that have done to United States-Soviet relations?

The fact of the matter is that the Soviets, under American urging realized that their stubbornness was risking the failure of their major foreign policy aim and did concede - albeit grudgingly. The sudden outpouring of Soviet Jews from 1970-1973 in numbers undreamed of by the slow-thinking and unimaginative Jewish Establishment, was the direct result of Jewish Defense League and militant's grasp of the significance of detente as the Achilles heel of the Soviets and their acting upon it.

And at this point it should be mentioned that the entire concept of using trade as a weapon in the struggle against detente was originally that of the JDL. When I travelled in 1971 to Brussels for the conference  
(continued...)



at which I was barred from speaking, I told the press that I would call for a major plan to do that which Henry Jackson later did, to the enthusiastic support of Jewish leaders!

The Jackson emergence onto the scene gave detente a dimension that could have given the Soviets only one of two choices: Either make a massive shift in policy that would allow vast amounts of Jews to leave or give up the policy of detente. The Russians opted for neither of these things because they hoped - and in the end were proven successful - to sabotage the Jackson and anti-detente camp.

The Soviet strategy was based upon several factors: one was the hope that the Brezhnev visit in June 1973 (the one which led to my arrest in Israel after letters I wrote to the JDL asking them to wreck the Russian's trip were intercepted) would lead to a softening of Congressional opposition as well as a seduction of the business community. The second factor was the open cooperation in this by both President Nixon and Henry Kissinger, who made no secret of their support of Brezhnev against the American Congress. The final factor was the effort made by the administration to split the American Jewish leadership on this issue and to get certain prominent leaders to pressure Jackson to compromise. All three of these factors combined to eventually set back the forces of anti-detente.

Brezhnev's visit was a great success, particularly in the business community. Kissinger and Nixon bent their efforts tirelessly to sabotage Jackson and the Jewish Establishment did split. The last is the most tragic and in the end the most significant element in the sabotage of the Soviet Jewish struggle. From the moment that two of the leading American Jews at the time, Max Fischer and Jacob Stein, stunned and angered Jewish activists by attending the state dinner for Brezhnev, the Jewish community should have known that things were not going well. Fischer and Stein were later joined by Jewish Agency official Charlotte Jacobson and American Jewish Congress chief Arthur Hertzberg in attacks on the Jackson amendment. Kissinger and Nixon never stopped their carrot-and-sticks tactics and after the Yom Kippur War, more than a few subtle hints were dropped to the effect that United States support for Israel was dependent upon American Jewish pressure on Jackson.

Such pressure was, indeed, attempted in a memorable meeting in Jackson's office where the Senator angrily ordered a number of Jewish leaders out. In the meantime, however, Israel herself - always prepared to sacrifice the Soviet Jewish struggle when she felt that her own interests were at stake, also joined the effort to pressure Jackson. By 1974, the pressure saw Senators Javits and Ribicoff, give, and they began to speak about compromise. The situation facing Jackson now was one in which more and more Jewish leaders were deserting his uncompromising ship; demonstrations and militancy had dwindled to almost nothing (a combination of federal government harassment of JDL and Jewish groups' illusions that since Jews were getting out of Russia, things were going smoothly), and Kissinger suddenly said that the Russians were prepared for a compromise.

There is little doubt that Jackson knew that the Russians could not be trusted and he had little faith in the 'compromise'. Yet, given little choice, he agreed. Kissinger, on October 18, 1974, blandly lied as in an exchange of letters with Jackson, he conveyed Soviet "assurances" that the number of visas issued would "rise to correspond to the number of applicants". The annual figure that Kissinger allowed to be bandied about was 60,000. On October 26 of that year Gromyko wrote Kissinger denying that there was any agreement. Kissinger did not notify Congress of this letter and on December 3 appeared before the Senate Finance Committee, never mentioned the letter and assured Senator Vance Hartke that the Soviet "assurances" were valid. On December 18, the Soviet News Agency Tass released the text of the Gromyko letter of October 26. The State Department immediately said that -

1) Kissinger had forgotten to tell Congress and that 2) this 'private' communication did not change the "understanding" referred to in the letter to Jackson. This incredible statement was exploded on January 14, 1975 when Kissinger was forced to announce that the Soviet Union would not put into force the trade agreement of 1972.

What happened? To begin with let us be clear about what did not happen. Detente was not put to an end by Henry Jackson. Detente was not killed by anybody. Detente is alive and well. The Soviets were just as anxious for detente as ever and are still anxious for detente which has  
(continued...)



given them enormous benefits and promises to give a great deal more. What happened was that the Russians, seeing the flight of Jewish and other support for Jackson; seeing the end to the militant protests; seeing that Jackson had been forced to compromise, reasoned that they could get their trade bill, they could have their detente on their own terms. Why have any kind of limitation when we can get an entire revision of the bill, was the Soviet logic? And it was good logic.

In Kissinger and Ford, the Russians know that they have men committed to the folly of detente. Moscow could not have two better such agents in Washington. This is why the Russians tore up the trade bill. Not because they do not want detente but precisely because they want it badly and are convinced that there is nothing to stop them from getting it on their own terms. Detente remains at the center of Soviet policy. It has been more than good for them. It has given them the technology, the trade and the dollars they want. It has effectively changed the psychology of anti-communism, leading to a mood of isolationism, arms limitations and budget cutting. It is guaranteeing America's decline while Russia loses not a man and gains in prestige and military might. Of course the Russians want detente. And that is welcome news for Jews for it means that we still have our opportunity. If we understand it and if we grasp it.

If the Soviets still desire detente badly, the leverage remains with Jews to threaten the Kremlin with possible loss of that detente which they want so badly. But the threat cannot be an empty one. It cannot be the once-a-year extravaganza which the Establishment spends most of its time planning and which not only ends up in a picnic or carnival atmosphere but worse, sends tens of thousands of Jews home with a clear conscience, convinced that they have "done something" for Soviet Jewry. The Russians are not total fools. They understand the impotency and irrelevancies of Solidarity Days. They are not frightened by them and, indeed, scorn and ignore them. They are convinced that the real danger - militant attacks on them - are over and that, in general, the West is bored with the subject of Soviet Jewry and is forgetting them. Indeed, this is what they have mocked Soviet Jewish activists with to the despair of the latter who sense a kernel of truth in it.

No, detente can be disrupted and the Soviets can be forced into concessions but only if there is a resurgence of Jewish militancy. Only a meaningful threat to detente that will compel the Soviets to react angrily against their will and then force them to concede, also against their will, has any meaning today.

But there is little time left. There is little time left and how we threw away the opportunities! What criminal neglect on our part and how much more difficult it will be today, that which we could have done easily and effectively yesterday.

We had a golden opportunity to free not only 100,000 Soviet Jews but much more than that and we allowed it to fritter away when the militancy stopped. We committed a terrible crime when we allowed our pathetic Jewish leaders to stop backing Jackson's original refusal to compromise. We see the detente become stronger and stronger each and every day as trade and commercial ties are forged by American businessmen whose panting for profits proves the cynical Lenin statement: "The capitalist will sell you the rope with which you want to hang him." The Soviets have openly denied that they will allow more Jews out - and the stronger detente of today will guarantee that America will not protest. They will begin to persecute Jews tomorrow because this is what they have been waiting for, for years - and the profitable detente will cause America to satisfy itself with a few meaningless protests. We, the Jews of the world will have been the accomplices in another possible physical disaster because we allowed the Jewish Establishment leadership that is so weak and hungry for honor by the President and Kissinger that it betrays Jews for it, to have gotten away once again. That which was so effective three years ago is less so today and thus even more radical measures are called for. Detente must be wrecked and the Russians told that they must pay the full price of Soviet Jewry or we will bear on our heads another shameful crime of negligence.

Wreck detente by all possible means - for the time is late, very late, and soon it will be too late to save them. But let us use our

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Jewish heads along with our Jewish fists and know that just as the total success of detente would doom Soviet Jewry so would its final and irreversible end, do the same. Total success or failure are both things to beware. Rather, let the Soviets know that detente is possible - but only at a price. Let them know that they can have what they want - tomorrow - if they pay - today.

\* \* \* \* \*



March 22, 1976

Mr. Philip M. Klutznick  
875 North Michigan Avenue  
Suite 4044  
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Dear Phil:

Your comments concerning the Brussels Declaration are right. I was reacting more to the general tone than to any specific document. I know, of course, where you stand and I know how deeply you feel on this general issue and we are in full agreement here.

I do hope we will have a chance to chat in the not-too-distant future. I want to tell you how I am progressing on the Presidents' Conference front in re-shaping its nature. It is a process in which I want you ultimately involved. I am now slowly and carefully moving lest my efforts be aborted by too many drastic steps too soon. But in looking back on the two months of my activity I am generally delighted with the progress that has been made. As a case in point, in regard to the Egyptian matter we had a lengthy three to four hour meeting prior to our meeting with the President and I met with a much smaller group in which quite a bit of re-orientation took place and our posture at the White House meeting itself was modified by this re-thinking process.

Be that as it may, let me know when you plan to be in New York for I am eager to meet with you. I'm leaving for Israel Saturday night for the visit I had originally intended to make after Brussels. I should be back in the Office early in April but Edie has my schedule and if you know you are to be in New York on a specific date, hopefully my calendar will find me in the city at the same time and we can meet. I have quite a few out-of-town engagements which cannot be changed but my local calendar is flexible. Just let me know when we can get together.

With fondest regards to you and Ethyl in which Rhea joins me, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

Philip M. Klutznick

875 North Michigan Avenue • Suite 4044 • Chicago, Illinois 60611

March 15, 1976

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler  
Union of American Hebrew  
Congregations  
838 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York 10021

My dear Alexander:

Just to prove that I do read your letters to Board members, I want to comment on something that you stated in your March letter with respect to the Brussels Conference. I also left with mixed feelings, but for a different reason. I agree that as a demonstration it was a success, but it came near being a complete disaster. The preparation in advance of this conference for a meeting of undisciplined personalities, which a good half were, required the kind of advance work where agreement might have been reached on the purposes and the kind of declarations and conclusions that were to have been reached before the conference began. I am not sure you were aware of the fact that some of us stayed up several nights in order to affect an agreement which might have been better had it been undertaken in advance of the conference.

Therefore, I am somewhat surprised by your statement: "I feel that the exclusive emphasis on demands for the right of Russian Jews to emigrate ---" is a misreading of the ultimate declaration. The declaration did cover the right of Russian Jews to live as Jews, and it also clearly covered emigration generally. If we had had more time, it could have been more explicit, but time was running out or we would have had a great collapse in the form of a bitter debate. I would urge you to re-read the declaration closely and carefully. Some of us think we achieved enough so that we can support that declaration and not the words that some speakers uttered. Please give me your reaction after you have read the declaration once again.

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler  
March 15, 1976  
Page Two

Warmest regards.

Cordially,



Philip M. Klutznick

PMK:mlk

P.S. I am deeply concerned  
about the new developments on  
the Egyptian front. With Sadat's  
action and excessive pressure we  
may force a Presidential position  
we may not like - Election year  
thus far is conservative and our  
strength may be ebbing faster than  
we think. At least we should  
think this posture through a  
bit more thoroughly. I hear H.K.  
is doing so.



February 25, 1976

Mr. Max M. Fisher  
2210 Fisher Building  
Detroit, Michigan 48202

Dear Max:

Thanks for the call to Brussels. As a matter of fact, it came in rather handy. Several leaders were upset about the Scranton appointment and I was able to neutralize their views and thereby forestall adverse comments.

Brussels itself was a fiasco. The troops and press were there, but the program was boring to death and the impact I suspect, slight. Will tell you about it when next we meet.

Phone call me when you are ready for a Kissinger appointment. Be well.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



# Telegram

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2123541510 TDMT NEW YORK NY 100 01-22 1040A EST

PMS ALEXANDER SCINDLER CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS OF MAJOR AMERICAN  
JEWISH ORGANIZATION, DLR

515 PARK AVE

NEW YORK NY 10022

NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOVIET JEWRY ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT IT HAS  
REVERSED AN EARLIER DECISION AND WILL ALLOW RABBI MEIR KAHANE TO  
PRESENT THE KEY NOTE ADDRESS AT THE UP COMING WORLD CONFERENCE ON  
THE SOVIET JEWRY TO BE HELD IN BRUSSELS ON FEBRUARY 17. RABBI KAHANE  
WILL URGE THE WORLD CONFERENCE TO BEGIN AN IMMEDIATE CAMPAIGN TO  
CRUSH DETENTE WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND HE WILL CALL ON ALL NATIONAL  
JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS TO INITIATE HARASSMENT CAMPAIGNS AGAINST SOVIET



# Telegram

OFFICIALS. IN AN EXTRAORDINARY PLENARY SESSION, THE NCSJ HAS VOTED  
17 TO 16 TO ENDORSE RABBI KAHANE'S PROPOSAL

UNSIGNED

NNNN



April 30, 1976

Mrs. Howard Levine  
10 Beaumont Terrace  
West Orange, N.J. 07052

Dear Jackie:

Thank you for your note regarding the Soviet Jewry Conference. I am delighted that Jerry will chat with Yehuda and also want to suggest that it might be helpful for you and Jerry to speak with Iz Miller. It was during his administration that arrangements were made regarding organizational relationships and I believe clarification can best be obtained by having the parties concerned involved. I understand there is a written agreement governing the relationship between the Presidents Conference and the National Conference on Soviet Jewry and that while both organizations relate, neither is a member of the other organization.

I hope we can get this matter cleared up and I am certain Rabbi Miller will be most helpful in that connection.

With warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler  
Chairman

cc: Rabbi Israel Miller  
Mr. Yehuda Hallman

# CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS OF MAJOR AMERICAN JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

515 PARK AVENUE

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022

PLaza 2-1616

Cable Address: COJOGRA

April 26, 1976

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

FROM: Yehuda Hellman

---

Enclosed please find a letter from Jackie Levine to you. She is simply not aware of the fact that both organizations deal with issues of Soviet Jewry as equals. There is a written agreement governing the relationships between the two organizations.

The Presidents Conference is not a member of any other coordinating body. The National Conference on Soviet Jewry is also not a member of the Presidents Conference.

May I suggest that Rabbi Israel Miller, who has ruled on this matter during his administration, meet with Jackie Levine and Jerry Goodman, with me present at the meeting. It is important that Jackie Levine understand this matter fully. I am sure that she does not know the facts at this time.

MRS. HOWARD H. LEVINE  
10 Beaumont Terrace, West Orange, New Jersey 07052

April 23

Dear Alex -

Thanks so much for taking the time to see us, and then to write to me about the Presidents' Conference dues. I showed your response to Jerry, and he will speak with Ychuda.

The facts seem to be that the Presidents' Conference is a charter member of the Natl Conf. on Soviet Jewry, at the insistence of Bill Wexler, and agreed to by Jack Stein. The Pres. Conference also cosponsored the Brezhnev Rally with NCJ. Therefore, there is some lapse in understanding somewhere.

Again, thank you for helping Abe & me to plow through the Syrian

Jury issue. I look forward to speaking  
with you about it again, and to  
seeing you very soon.

Cordially,  
Jackie



March 26, 1976

Mrs. Jacqueline Levine  
10 Beaumont Terrace  
West Orange, N.J. 07052

Dear Jackie:

I raised the issue of dues to the National Conference on Soviet Jewry with Yehuda. He tells me that the Presidents' Conference is not a member of the NCSJ.

In view of the above, I would suggest that Jerry Goodman contact Yehuda and discuss the matter with him.

With warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler  
Chairman

cc: Mr. Yehuda Hallman

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler



Gelunda -

Just I forgot when

I see you. Jacqueline come to  
see me in re dues to NC Soviet  
Jury. Says we haven't paid  
\$500. - a year dues since '73.

Please double check our records.  
Is there a reason?

Alex S. ~~JK~~

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February 27<sup>th</sup> 1976

Mr. Nechemia Levanon  
Rahov Gimel #7  
Accaria  
Tel-Aviv, Israel

Dear Nechemia:

I hope you have recovered from the Brussels Conference and that you look back on this event with a considerable source of satisfaction. In two ways it was really a fine event - the representation was excellent and the press coverage impressive so that our demonstrative purposes certainly were fulfilled.

Our trip to Poland was most interesting. There is much that I would like you to know, too much in fact to put into a written report and so I suggest that I hold it until we have a chance to see each other, unless you want to send a sheliach for the de-briefing.

With warm regards.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler  
Chairman

לשכת ראש הממשלה  
PRIME MINISTER'S BUREAU

free

Jerusalem, April 7, 1976

Rabbi Alexander Schindler  
Chairman  
Conference of Presidents of Major American  
Jewish Organizations  
515 Park Avenue  
New York, New York 10022

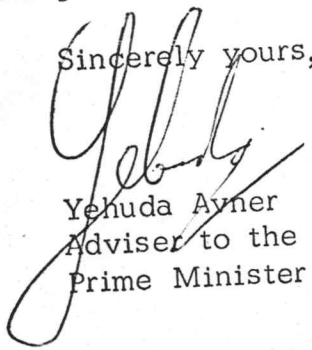
Dear Alex,

This is a note to tell you how glad I was to meet Yehuda and yourself here in Jerusalem.

I believe your visit accomplished much in terms of its public impact here, and I trust that you found your meetings satisfactory. Certainly, I left your meeting with the Prime Minister with the feeling that a good rapport has been established which augurs well for the future.

I wish you all success and extend to Yehuda and yourself my warmest greetings of Chag Sameach.

Sincerely yours,

  
Yehuda Avner  
Adviser to the  
Prime Minister

MGMNYAT HSB

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**western union Mailgram®**



*Rabbi A. Schindler*

JUN 11 1976

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOVIET JEWRY D EVERETT  
55 WEST 42 ST  
NEW YORK NY 10013

THIS MAILGRAM IS A CONFIRMATION COPY OF THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE:

2123541510 TDMT NEW YORK NY 146 06-10 0304P EST  
PMS THE HONORABLE WILLIAM E SIMON SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY  
WASHINGTON DC  
WE WERE DISTRESSED TO LEARN THAT SOVIET OFFICIALS WILL RAISE CUSTOM  
DUTY ON PARCELS FROM THIS COUNTRY AND ELSEWHERE TO FRIENDS AND  
RELATIVES IN THE USSR. WHILE THIS WILL EFFECT ALL CITIZENS, IT WILL  
BE ESPECIALLY HARD ON JEWS SEEKING EMIGRATION WHO HAVE BEEN FIRED OR  
FORCED TO RESIGN LACKING ALL MEANS OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT, THIS CRUEL  
PUNISHMENT AND UNNECESSARY HARASSMENT WILL FURTHER ISOLATE THESE  
PEOPLE NOW DEPENDENT ON ASSISTANCE FROM FRIENDS AND RELATIVES. WE  
URGE YOU CONVEY IMMEDIATELY THE STRONGEST PROTEST FROM THIS  
ADMINISTRATION CONCERNING THE EXORBITANT DUES BEING LEVIED ON JUNE  
15. WE URGE SOVIET OFFICIALS NOT TO APPLY THESE HARSH MEASURES.  
FAILING THIS A POSTPONEMENT OF 1 YEAR ALLOWING FOR A GRADUAL  
ADJUSTMENT TO THE NEW SITUATION WOULD BE AN ACT OF HUMANITY NOT  
UNNOTICED BY AMERICAN CITIZENS AND ELECTED OFFICIALS. WE APPRECIATE  
AN IMMEDIATE REPLY AS TO ANY ACTION TAKEN

STANLEY H LOWELL CHAIRMAN NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOVIET JEWRY  
AND RABBI ALEXANDER SCHINDLER CHAIRMAN CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS  
OF MAJOR AMERICAN JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

15:19 EST

MGMNYAT HSB

The above telegram also sent to Sec. of State, Kissinger,  
Asst. Sec., Arthur Hartman & Sec. of Commerce, Elliot  
Richardson



June 1, 1976

Mr. Seymour Graubard  
345 Park Avenue  
New York, N.Y. 10022

Dear Sy:

Enclosed is my full exchange of correspondence with Kissinger. If the answer is seen without the letter to which Kissinger responded, I suppose it can give rise to the idea that I sent him a report on my trip to Israel. But what bothers me is that anyone would give credence to such a report, enough credence even to make inquiry.

Be assured that the heat doesn't bother me and that's why I am in the kitchen and intend to remain there.

I admire you!

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

cc: Mr. Arnold Forster  
Encl.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

May 17, 1976

CC: Charlotte Jones  
Judy Goodman  
Tye Ruge

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

I was pleased to receive your kind letter of April 9. We are both fortunate that Israeli hospitality does not require that the guest always say what his hosts would like to hear.

We are well aware of the unfortunate cases of Dr. Shtern and Professor Levich. I must tell you frankly that in the present circumstances our ability to promote favorable resolution of such cases is somewhat circumscribed. Nevertheless, we have repeatedly brought up with the Soviet leaders the issue of Jewish emigration and human rights, and I can assure you we will continue to do so.

I do not wish to paint too bleak a picture of the emigration situation. We are encouraged by the fact that since last fall the monthly figures have averaged about 1,200, which is somewhat higher than the levels of the first nine months last year. We were also happy to hear that a number of high interest cases were resolved earlier this year. I think it is important not to lose sight of the fact that nearly 120,000 Soviet Jews have emigrated to Israel since 1971. Seen in the light of history, that figure seems rather remarkable.

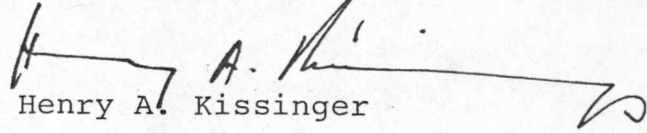
Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler,  
Chairman,  
Conference of Presidents of Major  
American Jewish Organizations,  
515 Park Avenue,  
New York, New York.



-2-

I hope we can get together soon and look forward to seeing you.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a stylized 'H' followed by a horizontal line and a large, sweeping flourish that extends to the right.

Henry A. Kissinger

Dr/ Henry Kissinger  
April 9, 1976  
Page -2-

Mrs. Schindler joins me in expressing warmest regards to you and your charming wife and in wishing you well at this season of the year.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler  
Chairman

bcc: Mr. Yehuda Hellman  
Mrs. Charlotte Jacobson  
Mr. Stanley Lowell

April 9, 1976

The Honorable Henry Kissinger  
Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Dr. Kissinger:

I have just returned from my first visit to Israel as the Chairman of the Presidents' Conference. I raised a few eyebrows and ruffled no few hairs there with what I said, how I said it and to whom I said it. You may be sure that not the least among my statements was an impassioned defense of your policies and person. All this is really too insignificant to come to your attention, but I do want you to know about it anyhow.

I am still hoping to have an opportunity to talk with you privately. As a matter of courtesy, I asked Max to arrange this but he has been unable to do so. I believe that such a frank and private exchange, however brief, might be of mutual benefit.

I turn to you now on another matter entirely and I do so at this time out of an awareness of the Chassidic tradition and the teachings of The Baal Shem Tov who believed that at various times during the year the powers of Pidyon Shevuim operate more intensely than at other times. One such period is the weeks prior to Pesach, Zmon Cherutaynu. I write to appeal for your intercession in behalf of two Soviet Jews, Dr. Mikhail Shtern and Benjamin Levich. I am certain their cases are all too familiar to you and that you know how significant a solution of their plight would be in all respects. It is my fond hope that you will do your utmost to intercede in their behalf.

Now that I have done my mitzvah in preparation for Pesach, I feel a little better about it all, but still better will I feel if you can help me to bring this mitzvah to fulfillment.



October 5, 1976

Mr. Jacob Birnbaum  
The Center for Russian Jewry  
with  
Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry  
200 West 72nd Street  
New York, N.Y. 10023

Dear Jacob:

Thank you for the materials you were kind enough to share with me.

I want you to know that while I am glad to support your recommendations personally, I cannot do so officially without full discussion and assent of the Presidents' Conference.

Gemar Tov.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



**The Center for Russian Jewry**  
with  
**Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry**  
200 WEST 72nd STREET • SUITES 30-31 • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10023  
(212) 799-8900 • (212) WA 8-7451

Dear Alex (Y.K.S)

I enclose some important materials. I do not believe that there are major differences between us, <sup>despite the ITA report</sup> I have <sup>merely</sup> contextualized your remark about the necessity for constant review by suggesting the establishment of a monitoring units within the Trade Committees, with provision for monthly reports & quarterly committee reviews. Otherwise, the whole thing becomes a joke.

Is there any way you can help in this matter? Why shouldn't you support such monitoring? May I expect a response from you to me?

Best CNLs wishes,

Joel Birnbaum

October 26, 1976

Mr. Warren B. Blumenthal  
747 Ohio Avenue  
North Tonawanda, N.Y. 14120

Dear Mr. Blumenthal:

Thank you for taking the time to share with me your views on the matter of General Brown. I am grateful for your concern and your comments.

As Chairman of the Presidents' Conference I articulate the view of the Conference, as expressed through the democratic process and my statement on General Brown was a consensus of the organizations represented in the Conference.

You also ought to know the statement was based not just on a reading of the article, but a careful reading of the transcript and on the tape of the interview itself. General Brown referred not only to Israel but to England and Iran as well, and clearly crossed the line of the military into the realm of public policy itself. It is my understanding that President Ford severely reprimanded the General for his expressed view which embarrassed the United States not only vis-a-vis Israel but our other allies as well and with good reason as an examination of the complete interview and a hearing of the tape itself will reveal.

Again, thank you for sharing your views with me.

Cordial Greetings,

Alexander M. Schindler

Warren B. Blumenthal  
747 Ohio Avenue  
North Tonawanda, New York 14120

October 20, 1976

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler  
Union of American Hebrew Congregations  
838 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10021

Subject: The Censure of General Brown

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

This is to express my strong but respectful disapproval of the stand of the Conference of Major Jewish Organizations, as articulated recently by yourself and others, relevant to General Brown.

I, as a Jew, am committed in principle and practice to freedom of speech. When a chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff states that he considers Israel a military burden, it is both his right to say what he thinks and his duty to articulate his judgment on matters of national security. The attempts of Jewish organizations to squelch expressions of Gen. Brown's opinion violates the general's freedom of speech and appears to be an unacceptable disregard for the opinions of mankind.

You are quoted in the press as saying, "Gen. Brown's statement represents a dangerous intrusion of the military into the domain of public policy, which our form of government clearly assigns to civilian authority". I object because General Brown's statement was a military opinion on a worrisome subject, on which it is his duty to form judgments. Whether he lacked grace or not is a subject worthy of response by American Jews in their capacities as Americans, but not by Jewish organizations.

Rabbi Walter S. Wursberger's reported statement appears to me to be particularly objectionable. Reportedly, he stated, "Gen. Brown portrays dismal insensitivity to the vital security interests of the United States, especially in the light of the broad consensus of the American people that a strong Israel represents an important bastion for defense of democracy in the free world. It would appear that a rabbi is eligible to proclaim what is sensitivity to vital security, but a general is not. Should Rabbi Wursberger be free to express military opinion, but General Brown not? Further, the evaluation of Israel as "an important bastion" by the general public cannot be a reason for Gen. Brown not to form and express a military evaluation.

Basically, the issue to which I am addressing my comments is whether the Jewish organizations are placing objective justice as their goal. I feel that often they are not, and their response to Gen. Brown's statements is a specific example of this.

Yours sincerely,

Warren B. Blumenthal



November 9, 1976

Mr. Si Frumkin, Chairman  
Southern California Council  
for Soviet Jews  
401 East 6th Street  
Los Angeles, CA. 90014

Dear Mr. Frumkin:

I have your letter of November 2 as well as a letter addressed to me at the Presidents' Conference some days ago.

Needless to say, the information which you sent me is not new to me. That includes the Hammer interview, which was called to my attention on the day on which it appeared in print, although I must note that I found the information which you gleaned from the reporter quite enlightening.

You do labor under an illusion when you think that I am part of the "decision-making process on the emigration of Jews from the USSR to the USA." I was not a part of the Committee of Eight. The International Steering Committee on Soviet Jewry, of which I am a part, was not directly involved either. At the last minute two American Jewish community organizations were "co-opted," not to share in the decision-making process, I take it, but merely to be told what the decision was.

The entire issue is certainly not one-sided and we are faced with a cruel dilemma. I would be most willing to be of help as we work toward a resolution of this terrible problem. But for the moment, at least, I am pretty much helpless and there is little doubt in my mind that the problem was compounded because the decisions were made without the wider involvement of our communities' leadership. If I can be of help I will, but in the meantime I can only express my views privately and for the Reform Movement, which I have every intention of doing.

With kindest greetings and every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

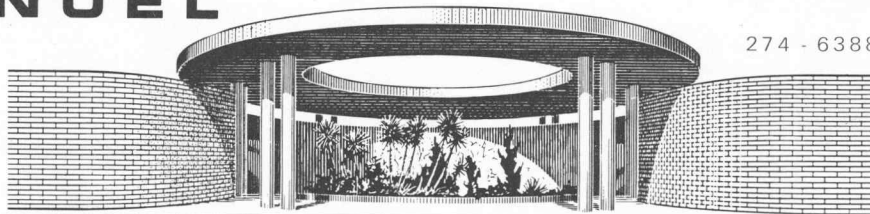
Alexander M. Schindler

cc: Rabbi Erwin L. Herman



# TEMPLE EMANUEL

274 - 6388



8844 BURTON WAY / BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90211

RABBI MEYER HELLER

CANTOR BARUCH COHON

CANTOR EDWARD KRAWLL

September 30, 1976

Rabbi Alexander Schindler  
U A H C  
838 Fifth Avenue  
New York, N.Y. 10021

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

As President of the Presidents, you can do something to influence the Committee of Eight who threaten to stop the Exodus of Soviet Jews. Remind them that "Dropping out" of Aliya to Israel is far preferable to being "Dropped out" of the Jewish future by remaining in Russia. Remind them that the Soviet Government does not respond to truth or justice - could care less about those trivialities, in fact - but only to pressure. We must stand on the right of every human being to choose his country of residence, and to change that choice if he sees fit. Any other course is immoral.

Leaving Russia, under any pretext that will satisfy Soviet law, is not immoral. Withholding our aid from our own people is immoral.

I urge you to use the prestige of your office to press the Committee of Eight to keep the Exodus going - keep the doors of America open - encourage those who want to go to Israel, yes, but the choice must be theirs!

I wish you a productive fast and a Good Year!

Sincerely,

*Baruch Cohon*  
Cantor Baruch Cohon

CBC:gaw

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SUSAN COSKEY

DOUGLAS DWORSKY

Organist

LUDWIG DREYFUSS

\* deceased

October 5, 1976

Cantor Baruch Cohen  
Temple Emanuel  
8844 Burton Way  
Beverly Hills, Ca. 90211

Dear Baruch:

I have your letter in regard to the Committee of Eight and while I am not directly involved in this matter I do want you to know that I have made my views known to as many people as possible. I shall continue to express my views whenever I have an opportunity.

With best wishes for the New Year, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

# The Center for Russian Jewry

200 WEST 72nd STREET • SUITES 30-31 • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10023

(212) 799-8900 • (212) WA 8-7451

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

*Similar letter to  
Ridicoff*

September 21, 1976

Congressmen William Green and Abner Mikva  
Trade Subcommittee  
House Ways and Means Committee  
Cannon Building 233  
Washington, D.C. 20515

*Re: Romania's MFN status and the  
"Freedom of Emigration"  
legislation*

Dear Congressmen Green and Mikva:

I appreciate having been given the opportunity of testifying before the Subcommittee last week. Unfortunately, in the rush to dispose of Congressional business by the end of the month, no analysis was made of ways of helping to ensure Romanian compliance with so significant a piece of legislation, an exercise of Congressional authority which provides millions of East Europeans with a sense of protection and hope for the future.

In my testimony I indicated the necessity of developing a series of pressure points during the coming year. The most effective of these would be the strengthening of the now inadequate monitoring and review facilities existing within the Subcommittee in relation to Romanian emigration.

## The Monitoring and Review Mechanism

- I. Functions: The hundreds of cases coming in should not merely be forwarded to the State Department, without careful attention within the Congressional framework. There is work of compilation of information and coordination with involved agencies to be done, so that Congress should --
  - a - have the best possible current picture at all times of general trends and individual cases
  - b - be able to consult in authoritative fashion with State, and with such Romanian officials as happen to be in contact.
- II. Composition: At least one full-time staff person, plus a secretary/assistant. The unit would make monthly reports to members of the Committee.
- III. Auspices: The findings would be formally reviewed every quarter by a small oversight group of Congresspersons, appointed by the Committee. This group would be empowered to hold detailed "minor" hearings at any time but certainly prior to the time of the quarterly review.
- IV. Budget: A yearly allocation of \$50,000 for the time being has been suggested.

- cont'd -

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It is our conviction that this sum is a modest price to pay for preventing a steep decline of Congress' authority in East Europe and sustaining the hopes of those whose protection we represent.

Evidences of Romanian Good Faith

May we further suggest that a sense of the Committee's unease with the present Romanian emigration situation be communicated to President Ford and to the Romanian Ambassador himself. Much more concrete assurances need to be sought from the Romanians this time, accompanied by substantial evidences of good faith in the near future. These should include --

- 1 - Early release of extreme cases.
- 2 - Cease harassing would-be emigrants.
- 3 - Raise emigration rates to Israel at not less than 3-400 a month and maintain the continued growth rates to the United States.

Very sincerely yours,

  
Jacob Birnbaum  
National Director

cc: members of the Committee



# RESOLUTION ON MONITORING ROMANIA'S HUMAN RIGHTS AND EMIGRATION RECORD

Mr. KOCH. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing on behalf of Congressman ROBERT F. DRINAN, Congressman CHRISTOPHER J. DODD, and myself, a resolution calling on the Socialist Republic of Romania either, to improve its record in emigration and its treatment of minorities or to risk losing its most-favored-nation status. Briefly, for those who may not be fully informed about this controversy, the United States extended most-favored-nation treatment to the Socialist Republic of Romania in 1975. Our Government did this under the authority provided by the Trade Act of 1974, which allowed the extension of most-favored-nation status and other trade privileges to the so-called "nonmarket" or socialist nations, provided those nations either showed that they had a free emigration policy or were making substantial progress toward such a goal. In the latter case, the President is allowed to recommend to the Congress that most-favored-nation status be granted, notwithstanding the fact the nation receiving our tariff advantages has a less than free emigration policy, if the President determines that the policies of the government in question, Romania in this case, will "lead substantially" to the objectives of free emigration.

Recently the President recommended that Romania receive most-favored-nation status for another year. The Congress has until October 15, 1976, to "veto" this extension through a disapproval resolution that may be offered by either House of Congress. Such a resolution would countermand the President's determination that Romania deserves to continue to receive most-favored-nation status, based on the Congress' own evaluation of Romania's record in emigration and other matters.

In addition, I have been concerned about the status of minorities, including linguistic minorities, in Romania, most notably the Hungarian-speaking Romanian minority. In urging that the Congress recognize their complaints as part of the spirit of the human rights section of the Trade Act of 1974, I have been asking that the Congress consider the fundamental rights of this minority as part of the overall situation that should be reviewed, when the trade status of Romania is considered.

The resolution that we are introducing today would ask the President to submit to Congress and to the newly established Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe—the Helsinki Monitoring Commission established this past summer—a report on the status of both the freedom of emigration and minority rights in Romania. Such a report would be requested immediately and also each time the President made an application for extension of most-favored-nation treatment for Romania.

In addition, the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe is requested by this resolution to transmit a

report to each House of Congress on both the freedom of emigration in Romania and the status of minorities in that country. This Commission was established to help monitor the Helsinki Agreement, particularly the promise of human freedoms contained in that document, and the duties assigned to it by this resolution are in keeping with the goals and purposes of the Commission. At the present time, the Congress must rely on the very imperfect device of annual hearings before the Trade Subcommittees of the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee to attempt to monitor the performance of Romania under the Trade Act of 1974 with respect to emigration and the other human rights encouraged by that legislation. The Commission can provide a timely and useful additional monitoring device.

This resolution also asks that additional money be made available to the Subcommittee on Trade of the House Ways and Means Committee, in order that it might better perform its duties with respect to the Trade Act of 1974. This is not meant in any way as a criticism of that subcommittee, its chairman, or its staff, who have done a first-rate job of dealing with the provisions of section 402, the human rights section of the Trade Act. However, the increasing volume of people seeking assistance from the Congress in expediting the applications of friends or relatives for visas to leave Romania means that additional staff is needed in order to make sure that both our own State Department and the Romanian Ambassador to the United States are aware of the congressional interest in those who are seeking to leave Romania.

I am concerned that if most-favored-nation status is continued for Romania, there must be monitoring of that country's emigration and human rights policies. Many names of those who are seeking to come to the United States have been submitted to the Romanian Government by Members of Congress on behalf of constituents. The Romanian Government has provided adequate explanations in some cases, inadequate in others, and in some cases none at all. As a condition of receiving most-favored-nation status, the Romanian Government must provide full information with respect to all those whose names have been submitted for emigration.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, this resolution declares that if the Socialist Republic of Romania continues to restrict the freedom of its citizens in the exercise of their fundamental human rights and cultural freedom, especially the right to emigrate, then it is the sense of the House of Representatives that most-favored-nation treatment for Romania should be terminated. Unfortunately, as I have requested information from the Romanian Ambassador on the status of many emigration cases in which I am interested, I have concluded that the Congress must be willing to take the drastic step of halting the most-favored-nation treatment of Romania in order to impress on the Romanian Government that section 402 does impose a meaning-

ful obligation on the Government of Romania to make its best efforts in the areas of emigration and human rights.

I am appending a copy of the resolution we are introducing today:

## H. RES. 1556

Whereas section 402 of the Trade Act of 1974 establishes the dedication of the United States to the protection of fundamental human rights and cultural freedom, especially the right to emigrate;

Whereas such dedication has been reaffirmed by the signing by the United States of the Helsinki Agreement (The Final Act of the Conference on Cooperation and Security in Europe) which agreement was also signed by Canada and thirty-three European nations, including the Socialist Republic of Romania;

Whereas the Socialist Republic of Romania has restricted the freedom of its citizens in the exercise of their fundamental human rights and cultural freedom, including the exercise of such rights and freedom with respect to education, religion, emigration, and language; and

Whereas such restriction by the Socialist Republic of Romania is inconsistent with the goals of the Trade Act of 1974 and the Helsinki Agreement: Now, therefore, be it Resolved, by the House of Representatives—

That the President is requested to transmit to each House of Congress and to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe a report with respect to the freedom of the citizens of the Socialist Republic of Romania to exercise their fundamental human rights and cultural freedom, especially the right to emigrate;

That the President is requested to transmit to the Congress a report with respect to the freedom of the citizens of the Socialist Republic of Romania to exercise their fundamental human rights and cultural freedoms, especially the right to emigrate, each time the President makes a request for authority to waive the application of section 402 (a) and (b) of the Trade Act of 1974 or for authority to extend the United States-Romanian Trade agreement itself;

That the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe is requested to transmit to each House of Congress a report with respect to the freedom of the citizens of the Socialist Republic of Romania to emigrate and the status of minorities in the Socialist Republic of Romania;

That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that if the Socialist Republic of Romania continues to restrict the freedom of its citizens in the exercise of their fundamental human rights and cultural freedom, especially the right to emigrate, then the 1975 United States-Romanian Trade Agreement and the most-favored nation treatment of the Socialist Republic of Romania by the United States should be terminated; and

That there shall be made available from the contingent fund of the House, \$50,000 for the Trade Subcommittee of the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives for the expenses of acquiring additional staff to assist such subcommittee in carrying out its duties under the Trade Act of 1974. Payment of such amount shall be made upon vouchers signed by the chairman of such subcommittee.

\$ 50,000

AN EXAMINATION OF ROMANIAN POLICY ON EMIGRATION

TESTIMONY BY JACOB BIRNBAUM

NATIONAL DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR RUSSIAN JEWRY & STUDENT STRUGGLE FOR SOVIET JEWRY, N.Y.C.  
AT HEARINGS BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRADE OF THE WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES, UNITED STATES CONGRESS, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1976.

Summary of Contents

- I. Introduction : Difficulties obtaining names, particulars of would-be emigrants. Page 1
- II. Emigration statistics indicate tightly controlled emigration annual rate of rate of 2,000 for Israel (steep decline) and 1,000 for U.S. (quantatively insignificant increase ). Page 1
- Conservative estimate of potential Jewish emigration is 40,000.
- Conclusion: Jewish emigration of 4-5,000 p.a. possible for next decade. Page 1
- III. Romanian Govt. Discouragement of Emigration Documented Page 2
- Applying for passport an endless ordeal - four stages listed.
- Serious consequences of applying, such as job loss, marriage prohibitions.
- Discussion of extreme cases. Page 3
- IV. Recommendations: A simple unconditional waiver of provisions withholding Most Favored Nation & credit privileges can hardly be justified, yet complete withdrawal at this time might be avoided by following:
- a) House Resolution or Committee decision to hold further hearings in November/December, Dec. 27, with frequent hearings thereafter
  - ✓ b) Creation of review mechanism under auspices of Joint (Finance/Ways & Means) committee to monitor emigration situation,
  - c) Much more concrete assurances to be sought from the Romanians this time, accompanied by substantial evidences of good faith in near future\*
- V. Addendum: A Romanian emigre's plea for firmer American diplomacy, "Don't trust words, promises. Ask for facts." pages 3/4  
Pages 4
- VI. Lists of Romanian Jews desiring to emigrate to U.S., Canada, Israel. Six Pages

- \* Evidences
- a) early release of extreme cases
  - b) Cease harassment of would-be emigrants
  - c) raise emigration rate to 3-400 per month



ROMANIAN POLICY ON EMIGRATION

TESTIMONY BY JACOB BIRNBAUM

NATIONAL DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR RUSSIAN JEWRY & STUDENT STRUGGLE FOR SOVIET JEWRY AT  
HEARINGS BEFORE SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRADE OF THE HOUSE WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE, SEPT.14,1976.

Mr. Chairman, I have been engaged in the struggle for human rights in East Europe for thirteen years, mainly but by no means exclusively in behalf of Jews. In the spring of 1964, I founded the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry and two years later the Center for Russian Jewry. Last year, following my intervention with Romanian Ambassadors Bogdan and Datcu in behalf of a Romanian Jew, Andre Asher, sentenced to death for economic crimes, I became more and more involved with the problems of Romanian Jewish emigration. After a few days, Ambassador Datcu called me to say that Asher's sentence had been commuted to twenty years imprisonment (Asher was 64). Since then, letters from relatives of would-be emigrants from Romania to the U.S., Israel and elsewhere, as well as discussions with returned visitors, have given me a picture of the internal emigration situation, and have enabled me to compile lists of would-be emigrants, the latest of which is herewith attached (U.S., Israel, Canada). A good part of this testimony will be authenticated by appropriate quotations from these letters.

In 1975, the Congress agreed to the President's request to waive the requirements of section 402 of Title IV of the Trade Act (Jan.3, 1975) denying MFN and credit privileges to Romania, on the understanding that substantial progress was being made and would in future be made to improve that country's emigration practices. Unfortunately, (does not point to such progress.  
the evidence)

Two tests can be made to ascertain the situation :

A. Increase or decrease of numbers of emigrants. B. Volume of complaints re obstacles.

A. Numbers

The statistics have been used in misleading fashion to show important increases. A group of months in 1975 and 1976 have been compared to indicate a doubling. The overall picture however is different. The combined Romanian emigrant totals for Israel and the U.S. for 1973 and 1974 show well over 4,000 for each of those years. For 1975 (in the middle of which MFN was extended) we have about 3,000, while the 1976 total points to something in the region of 3,200. A further breakdown of these totals as between Israel and the U.S. will prove illuminating. While in the years before 1975, Romanian emigration to the U.S. ranged from 19 in 1967 to 407 in 1974, under pressure from Congress that figure rose to 945 in 1975, to a possible 1,000 or 1100 in 1976. Percentage-wise this may be considered a large increase but in terms of the totals hardly a significant amount. Incidentally, very few of these are Jews. Last week, however, a HIAS representative reported that 2,900 Romanian Jews were registered with his agency for immigration to the U.S.

An examination of Romanian immigration to Israel indicate a startling decline in recent years. 1972 - 3,000, 1973 - 4,000, 1974 - 3,700, 1975 (MFN year) - 2008, 1976 - again pointing to slightly over 2,000. The monthly figures can be juggled in deceptive fashion but the larger perspective dramatically illuminates Bucharest's real policy.

Much has been made of the ageing and the decline in numbers of the Romanian Jewish community. There is however considerable evidence to indicate that the 1973/4 levels of 4,000 could easily be reached again and even raised to 5,000 and more for a number of years. Well over a year ago, a highly placed Romanian personage said that he believed that before 1975 was over, some 3 to 4,000 Jews will have emigrated to Israel. Though the actual figure was 2,008, he must have regarded the higher figure as a completely reasonable one. Furthermore, he estimated that by 1980 another 20 - 30,000 Jews may have opted to emigrate. He must have had in mind a figure of 4 - 6,000 a year for five years. I have also been informed that a very authoritative source reported that a conservative Israeli estimate of Romania's Jewish emigration potential was not less than 40,000.



Discouragement of Applications for Emigration.

The bare statistics just discussed do not convey the amount of unnecessary suffering often undergone in the process of leaving Romania. The extracts from the communications in my possession quoted here will give some indication of this. Unfortunately, after some soul searching, I decided not to name my sources at this time, though they are of course available to the Chairman and committee members on request.

informed me

Fear : A very recently returned visitor that he had been told in Bucharest that anyone whose name appeared on a list from abroad "will never leave"; that some of these people had been warned and intimidated because their names had appeared on such list. Those who spoke to my informant all refused to introduce themselves. The work of gathering information this past year has been most difficult because of the lack of communication engendered by an often pervasive fear. There are persons who, though desperate to join their relatives in the U.S. "have not gotten to the stage of applying for a visa at the U.S. Embassy --- in fact most never even contacted the Embassy for information " in the words of an authoritative source. We do of course know of persons who have gone. Last summer, for example, would-be applicants were emboldened by the knowledge that Congress was concerned.

Applying for A Passport : Here are several stages as reported by a knowledgeable source.

" The mere fact of applying for a passport implies a long ordeal.

1. First step: Asking your employer for his permission. The applicant must appear before the Director of place of work and the local party committee to argue why he or she wants to leave and to face their aggressive questioning, threats and attempts to dissuade.
2. If he is stubborn enough, he will reach the next step, this time at the People's Council of the District - a similar test of steadfastness and obstination.
3. If he survives, he may register on a waiting list at the local police station for the application forms., only to be told that the forms are "out of print". In December, 1975 they remained unavailable for months.
4. After applying, the attempts to convince or frighten resume at regular intervals, sometimes every month. "

"We cannot force our citizens to emigrate" An extract from a recent letter, involving a simple case of family reunion in the U.S. with no complications of any kind, will illustrate the above: "Despite her repeated requests, they refused systematically to give her application forms for travel documents and exit visas. She was finally sent by the police in charge of handling these problems to the Communist party boss of the city who tried to intimidate and dissuade her from applying for the reunification of her family. Her problem was discussed by the party "cell" of her place of work. They called a meeting attended by the employees and she had to explain publicly her reasons for asking to leave. I believe the new stratagem of the Romanian Authorities is to refuse the petitioners the right to file for travel documents and when questions from abroad arise, the answer may be " Sorry but the people you mention never filed an application and we don't force our citizens to emigrate ." This has indeed been a common reply by Romanian officials, from President Ceausescu down.

Some Consequences of Applying for Emigration

Job Displacement and Demotion : These are not uncommon occurrences. An old couple in their 80s wrote - "Our son asked for a visa about two years ago. Ever since, he and his wife were sent out of their jobs and now they and their young children are close to starving. Every week they are told they will never leave". From a smuggled letter - " I applied for emigration in July 1975 because I believed it was a fortunate moment, since at that time the Romanian Govt. got from the American Congress the Most Favored Nation clause which required the liberalization of emigration. I hoped that in such circumstances the Romanian authorities would agree to my leaving the country. But on the second day, I was put out of my scientific work, discharged of job and my wages cut down. Almost every day I have been called to several authorities and unofficially in a "friendly" manner advised to withdraw my petition, because anyway I shall not be allowed to go, I shall

be fired and be jobless -- my stubbornness would spoil my life and destroy me professionally. -- my situation is indeed desperate: to live for me in Romania is no more possible without job, and to leave the country I am not allowed."

#### Separation of Couples and Prohibition of Marriages with Non-Romanians

A young man wrote: "The permanent incertitude regarding emigration forced us to postpone our marriage and we lived four years as husband and wife (without formal marriage). I managed to leave Romania but my fiancée has little hope to leave. She was several times hindered to hand in the application. Moreover, the Govt. has forbidden(!) Romanian citizens living in Romania to marry those who left the country. This law is kept secret, has never been published - as many others of the same kind."

A young woman of Romanian origin has returned to visit Romania many times during the past few years in her efforts to marry her fiancée, still trying to leave.

#### Punishing Children for the Deeds of their Parents: A young woman writes - "My application for emigration was turned down because

of father's alleged "guilt". A man with young children has been told again and again that he will never leave because of his father's "guilt", has been demoted from his professional position and forced to take a rough menial bare subsistence job. The family lives in a state of abject misery and constant humiliation from the neighbors.

#### Hardest Cases: The State Insists on Ceaseless Punishment in the Name of its Justice

A number of former managers, trade officials, administrators became enmeshed during the 1950s and 1960s in the power shifts of Romanian politics and were scapegoated. Usually, they were accused of economic crimes. Often, whether their guilt was real or not, they were sentenced to long imprisonment and fined enormous sums, impossible to pay off. Now elderly, sick and old, many of these people are living out the remainder of their lives with bitter memories of prison and before that, the murder of their families by the Nazis. Mostly, they wish to leave Europe behind and join relatives in Israel or elsewhere. Whether they were guilty or not and whatever the degree of any guilt, they more than served their time, they have suffered enough. This kind of state-ordained eternal punishment can no longer be regarded as Justice but as something else. They should finally be let go.

A young man from Israel wrote: "My father was unjustly involved in a deliberately made-up antisemitic trial. These were the trials of the Romanian Jews who had been working in Romanian foreign trade, that took place 1958 - 1964. The principle aim of these terrible trials, with both economic and political consequences, was to remove all Jews holding senior positions in Romanian foreign trade at that time --- It is hard to understand how the tragic reality of these trials in which the only ones convicted were Jews, was hidden to world opinion". She concludes "My parents are elderly and sick, completely alone (all my mother's family are in Israel, while my father's was completely exterminated by the Nazis). Their single natural desire after having wrongfully suffered for so long is to join me, their only child, in Israel."

Another man was refused till he paid enormous fines for himself, the equally enormous fines of two others accused with him were also paid off, plus accumulated interest over the many years, plus collection expenses ! *to be*

#### Conclusion : With the 1975 waiver of MFN legislation and President Ford's assurances, we

might have expected a substantial expansion of Romanian emigration and a diminution of internal obstacles rather than what we have seen - a steep decline and increased local difficulties. Out of a minimum Romanian Jewish emigration potential of 40,000, only 2,000 a year are permitted to leave. This being so, a straightforward waiver of subsection 402 a.&b. of Title IV of the Trade Act, withholding MFN to a country which "denies its citizens the right or opportunity to emigrate", will need some justifying. There is little, if any, evidence that last year's waiver "substantially promoted the objectives of freedom of emigration". \* RECOMMENDING It would seem appropriate for Congress to ask the President to seek from the Romanians renewed and very concrete assurances ~~that~~ that the emigration practices of their country will henceforth lead substantially to the achievement of the objectives of freedom of emigration".

I retain the belief that there is sufficient goodwill between the Romanian Govt.

\* RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS

and ourselves for a better resolution of problems in the coming months. Bucharest has so much to gain from American support, American know-how, American technology, American trade, that an uncomplicated emigration policy would be a small price to pay for the enormous potential benefits of an untroubled relationship with Washington.

B Establishment of a Congressional Review Mechanism for Romanian Emigration

There is a lack of steady consultation, coordination and information exchange between the various involved agencies in Washington. To this end, it would seem helpful to establish some form of systematic congressional review mechanism whose function would be to

- a) ascertain more precisely than hitherto the current Romanian emigration situation, both in terms of numbers and of internal operation
- b) lead to a more informed and frequent dialogue with the Romanians on the individual cases.

To be effective, the review mechanism would have to meet regularly, say, bi-monthly, with provision for plenty of mutual consultation among staff people between formal meetings.

C HOUSE RESOLUTION OR COMMITTEE DECISION TO HOLD FURTHER HEARINGS IN NOVEMBER  
AddendumA Romanian Emigre's Perception of the American Role in East Europe

A few days ago I received a letter from Europe, from which I extract:

"The fact that the U.S. became interested in my case was decisive. Not even money, usually the most successful way of emigration (from Romania) helped me. My relatives paid \$5,000 to a go-between but to no avail. American political influence could supplement the 'money' method. --- I think that Washington is not totally aware how strong its influence in that part of the world could be."

He insists on the importance of the U.S. keeping up its political pressure on the Romanians and warns of the dangers of "weak U.S. diplomatical activity".

He concludes : "DON'T TRUST WORDS AND PROMISES, ASK FOR FACTS "  
By 'facts', he means concrete evidences of Romanian good faith in terms of emigration.



November 29, 1976

Rabbi Scott M. Sperling  
Temple Jeremiah  
8333 Airport Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA. 90045

Dear Scott:

Thank you for your letter of November 18th.

Certainly I will always speak my mind, you can be assured of that. I have never been known to swallow my tongue. Every once in awhile, however, I do feel constrained to defer to the consensus of my office and since the Presidents' Conference has not taken a stand on this particular issue my public voice is just a bit muted. But when it counts, you can count on me to holler!

Warm good wishes.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



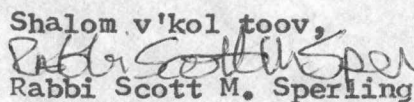
8333 AIRPORT BOULEVARD  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90045  
776-4074, 645-5353

SCOTT M. SPERLING RABBI  
MORDECAI I. SOLOFF, RABBI EMERITUS  
DAVID JULIAN, CANTOR

Nov. 18, 1976

Dear Rabbi Schindler,

I have two purposes in writing to you. One of which is to offer a belated thank you for your note of congratulations on my installation this past month. The second is to express my deep concern over the issue of Soviet Jewish immigration. I am deeply worried that HIAS and other Jewish organizations are going to cease giving aid to the so-called "drop-outs" in Vienna. It is my firm belief that we have no right to dictate to our Soviet Jewish brothers and sisters who have managed to escape Russian oppression, what their final point of destination is to be. They have the same right of free choice to settle in Israel or not to settle there as I have, or any other Jew. From my perspective, it would be an immoral and cowardly act on our part to withhold any help from any Soviet Jew, based on their desire to settle anywhere other than Israel. I hope that in the coming weeks and months that you will speak out on behalf of the principle of freedom of choice, both as President of the UAHC and as President of the Conference of Major Jewish Organizations. The specter of the process of 'selekzia' being carried out by Jewish bureaucrats on fellow Jews seeking to escape to freedom is more than I wish to imagine. I hope that this will never come to pass.

Shalom v'kol toov,  
  
Rabbi Scott M. Sperling



December 23, 1976

Mr. David Bamberger  
1555 Lincoln Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio 44107

Dear Mr. Bamberger:

Thank you for your letter of December 20 and the article by Abba Eban. I am grateful to you for sharing your concern with me.

Let me assure you that I am committed to the rights of Soviet Jews to emigrate to the country of their choice and to their right to a Jewish life in the U.S.S.R.

With kindest greetings, I am

Sincerely,

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler  
Chairman



DAVID BAMBERGER  
1555 LINCOLN AVENUE  
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44107

December 20, 1976

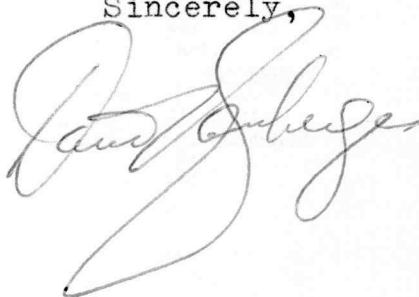
Rabbi Alexander Schindler  
Conference of Major Jewish  
Organizations  
838 Fifth Avenue  
New York, N.Y. 10021

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

I would like to express my agreement with the opinions expressed by Abba Eban in the enclosed article, urging assistance for all Jews who wish to leave Russia, including the so-called dropouts who do not choose to go to Israel.

It is surely not for us in the U.S., particularly during the season of Hanukkah, to take any actions which would tend to deny freedom to any Jew -- particularly those who, like us, choose to live in lands outside of Israel.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David Bamberger", written in dark ink.

# Magazine Page

## Point of View

### Do Not Withhold Assistance To Soviet Jewish 'Dropouts'

(Editor's note: The Soviet Jewry "dropout" issue is currently under intensive discussion and analysis in Jewish communities throughout the world. A special committee of Israeli and American Jewish leaders, the Interorganizational Committee on Soviet Jewish Emigration headed by Max Fisher, is studying the situation in all its ramifications. Because of the importance of the issue, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency is publishing an article written by former Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban exclusively for the JTA).

By ABBA EBAN

JERUSALEM (JTA)-- Israelis and American Jews alike believe that Jews who emigrate from the Soviet Union to the United States with Israeli visas do great disservice to the central interests of the Jewish people.

They exchange the idea of a Jewish homeland for the opportunistic notion of individual welfare. They bring discredit on the powerful historic theme in the name of which their deliverance was secured. They reward the State of Israel for their own redemption by reducing the dignity and authenticity of the very statehood which has served them in their ordeal.

Every resource of persuasion and incentive should be put to work to bring this moral paradox to an end.

Yet with all the severity of this judgment, I hope that American Jewish organizations will reject any advice to withhold aid and compassion from Soviet Jews who reach a free haven anywhere in the world. The deepest issues of Jewish fraternity are here at issue. Since our Jewish relationship is fraternal it imposes an unconditional solidarity.

Zionism has an absolute obligation to the interests of every Jew, in rectitude or in error, for better or for worse. The obligation is

transcendent and all-embracing. It springs to our conscience from the depths of our tragic history. And it is sustained by memories too poignant to discard.

#### Intolerable Moral Implication

Aliyah is a unique and a translatable idea. But it is totally incompatible with any concept of coercion. If it lacks the voluntary impulse it becomes drained of its nobility. Nor is there much prospect of durability in a sojourn in Israel engendered by the pressure of deprivation imposed by a docile but reluctant American Jewish decision. The moral implication is intolerable.

American Jews who have shown an infinitely smaller tendency towards aliyah than Soviet Jewry have no right to compel Soviet Jews to fulfill an obligation that American Jews ignore with such totality. The American Jewish kettle is not entitled to call the Soviet Jewish pot black or any other color.

Whatever the motives for the American Jewish record on aliyah it must surely generate a decent humility towards Soviet Jews who, in their fatigue and confusion, are unable to fulfill the dictates of our national history.

When Zionism celebrated its decisive political victory after World War I, its leaders took a double and parallel course. (Chaim) Weiz-



Abba Eban

mann and his colleagues appeared before the peace conference in 1919 with their call for recognition of Jewish national independence.

And Nahum Sokolow, representing Zionism in its full sovereignty, joined Louis Marshall and Julian Mack in their efforts to protect the civil and collective Jewish rights of Jewish communities in Europe.

#### The Libel Of Indifference

The most satanic and heinous anti-Zionist propaganda after the second World War sought to saddle Zionism with the sin of indifference to the saving of Jewish lives other than those destined for Eretz Israel. We dare not accord retroactive validity to his libel by giving our Jewish solidarity a paroch-

ial or selective interpretation.

When we rightly assert that a Jewish State, had it existed in the 1940s, would have saved the lives of millions of Jews, the diagnosis certainly includes not only those who would have "come home" in the fullest sense, but also those who would have used a sovereign Jewish passport for their varied forms of personal deliverance.

#### Division Would Be Tragic

I hope that Israeli leaders who wish to obey an integral Zionism, free of any Canaanitish emphasis, should think again and liberate American Jewish leaders from a pressure that goes against every fraternal and humane impulse. In any case this is a theme on which American Jews have a right, and perhaps a duty, to assert their independent judgment.

Nothing could be more tragic than to embark on a policy that would cause division between American Jews and each other, between American and Russian Jews, between Israel and the Jews of the two main diasporas. If we separate our disapproval of the dropout process from our humane duty to those involved, these discords can still be avoided.

#### Israeli Children Study U.S. Jewry

JERUSALEM (JTA)-- Some 1500 high school students in 18 schools in the Matte Yehuda region near Jerusalem began this week an educational project.

"Jews in the United States," the project is titled. The project is being conducted by the Inter-Jewish Center

salem, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.

To Mr. Shindler

President of the USA Jewish Presidents Council

Mr. President!

Our relative and friend - Alexander Feldman is now under the threat of the repeated conviction in Soviet prison.

Three and a half years ago, after the trial, framed-up by KGB, Alexander Feldman was condemned to a long imprisonment term and this term is now going to its end.

The fact of repeated conviction of a Jewish repatriation activist even before his term has finished is unprecedented in the Soviet Jews' movement for the immigration right.

We know, Mr. President, how much has already done by your Council for the Soviet Jewry. That is why we appeal to you with our deep request to use all your influence in order to prevent this terrible thing. Your support can help to Alexander Feldman to reunite with his family and his friends in the land of Israel.

With sincere respect and hope

Alexander Feldman's family,

The Israel Committee for Alexander Feldman's Liberation.

March 23, 1977.

Jerusalem.



Telegram  
May 17, 1977

The President  
White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

We are distressed to learn that the trial of Moscow Jew, Iosef Begun, will be held tomorrow and that the investigation of Anatoly Shchransky has been intensified.

Negative results of the trial could have a deleterious impact on popular attitudes towards improving East-West relations.

Respectfully request your immediate attention.

Eugene Gold, Chairman  
National Conference on Soviet Jewry

Rabbi Schindler, Chairman  
Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations

cc: Robert Lifschutz Counsel to the President  
Stuart Eizenstat, Counsel to the President



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

7

September 20, 1977

Rabbi Alexander Schindler, Chairman  
Conference of President of Major  
American Jewish Organizations  
515 Park Avenue  
New York, New York 10022

Dear Mr. Schindler:

On behalf of President Carter, I want to thank you for your comments concerning the plight of Anatoly Shcharansky in the Soviet Union.

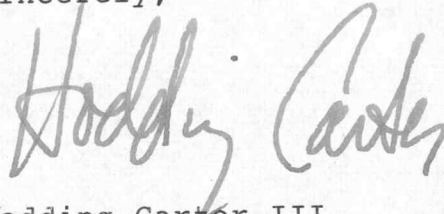
Mr. Shcharansky remains in detention in Moscow and has not, according to our information, been formally charged by Soviet authorities. Secretary Vance expressed our concern for Mr. Shcharansky to the Soviet Government soon after Mr. Shcharansky was detained. Allegations in the Soviet press that Mr. Shcharansky collaborated with the CIA were also denied publicly by President Carter.

During his visit to Moscow in March, Secretary Vance emphasized to Soviet officials our interest in the resolution of a large number of cases of Soviet Jews refused exit visas for Israel. A list of several hundred names, including Mr. Shcharansky's, was submitted to the Soviet Government.

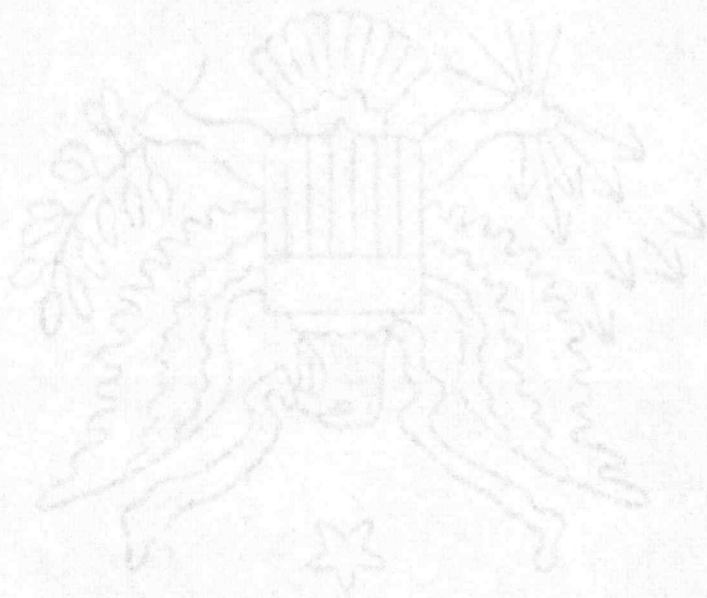
Our commitment to promote human rights at home and abroad has been made clear, including our commitment to the principles of freedom of emigration and family reunification. These fundamental human rights have been set forth in internationally accepted documents such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Final Act of the Helsinki Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

You may be certain that our efforts in defense of human rights will continue to be an integral element in the conduct of our foreign policy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Hodding Carter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "H" and a long, sweeping underline.

Hodding Carter III  
Assistant Secretary  
for Public Affairs and  
Department Spokesman





OFFICERS

MAXWELL HILLARY SALTER

*President*

JUDGE ADOLPH ALEXANDER

*Board Chairman*

AL MELLMAN

*Executive Director*

# Temple Beth Am

1039 SOUTH LA CIENEGA BOULEVARD

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90035

655-6401

652-7353

*Rabbis*

JACOB PRESSMAN

HARRY A. SILVERSTEIN

*Cantors*

SAMUEL KELEMER

SIMON SCHIMMEL

December 8, 1976

Alexander Schindler  
Conf. Major Jewish Organizations  
838 5th Avenue  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Schindler,

We have been working and speaking for the policy of "Save Soviet Jewry" since its inception and we believe that we still have a moral obligation to help Jews leave Russia.

We fully endorse their emigration to Israel and we recognize that their vitality and talent can add to the strength of Israel. However, in those instances where they exercise their option to immigrate to some state other than Israel we believe that they should have that freedom of choice and that World Jewry should support them in those efforts.

Sincerely,

*Rabbi Jacob Pressman*  
Rabbi Jacob Pressman

*Max H. Salter*  
Maxwell Hillary Salter, President

*Dolores Colker*  
Dolores Colker, Chairperson, Committee On World Affairs



December 23, 1976

Rabbi Jacob Pressman  
Mr. Maxwell Hillary  
Ms. Dolores Colker  
Temple Beth Am  
1039 South La Cienega Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA. 90035

Dear Friends:

Many thanks for your letter in regard to Soviet Jewry. I am grateful to you for sharing with me your concerns.

Let me assure you that I am committed to the rights of Soviet Jews to a Jewish life within the U.S.S.R. as well as to the right to emigrate to the country of their choice.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler  
Chairman

OFFICERS

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*Maxwell Hillary Salter*  
Maxwell Hillary Salter, President

*Dolores Colker*  
Dolores Colker, Chairperson, Committee On World Affairs







# National Conference on Soviet Jewry

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American Jewish Committee  
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Labor Zionist Alliance  
Rabbi Steven Riskin,  
Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry  
Harriet Rosenthal  
National Council of Jewish Women  
Will Stern, Workmen's Circle  
Norman D. Tilles, Providence, R.I.

## Executive Director

Jerry Goodman

## Washington Representative

Marina Wallach

August 5, 1977

Mr. David Blumberg, President  
B'nai B'rith  
1640 Rhode Island Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Dave,

Your letter to Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, in regard to helping determine the priorities of American Jewish life, deserves attention. The issue is especially important in terms of the many concerns facing the Jewish community in this country and in our relationship to the Administration and the United States Congress in regard to these issues. It is also reflected in the amount and the variety of resources we allocate to coping with these matters.

At some proper occasion the leadership of the major umbrella organizations in this country should begin to ventilate this matter. You may recall that this was part of the reason for convening the Joint Committee meeting of the NCSJ and the Presidents' Conference. I know how strongly you feel about this matter, and I do appreciate your sending me the letter.

With best wishes, I remain

Sincerely,

Eugene Gold  
Chairman

cc: Theodore R. Mann, NJCRAC  
Jerald C. Hoffberger, CJFWF  
Lawrence Weinberg, AIPAC  
Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, Presidents' Conference  
Leonard R. Strelitz, UJA

EG:sg

June 24, 1977

DAVID M. BLUMBERG  
President

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, Chairman  
Conference of Presidents of  
Major American Jewish Organizations  
515 Park Avenue  
New York, New York 10022

Dear Alex:

With all the confusion that seems to be in the air at the present time relative to the major priorities of American Jewish life, it would seem logical to me that you, as Chairman of the Presidents Conference, would want to get together with the leaders of the major umbrella organizations in this country to develop some guidelines as to how these priorities can be handled.

You will note that I am sending copies of this letter to the leaders of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, American Israel Public Affairs Committee, United Jewish Appeal, and the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, so that they will be acquainted with my thoughts on the subject matter.

If this be chutzpah on my part, so be it, but I do not believe that we can continue in the American Jewish community to have questions raised about our unity without you and the other leaders sitting down to talk about it.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

David M. Blumberg

DMB/s

cc: Theodore R. Mann, NJCRAC  
Jerold C. Hoffberger, CJFWF  
Lawrence Weinberg, AIPAC  
Leonard R. Strelitz, UJA  
Eugene Gold, NCSJ



DAVID M. BLUMBERG  
President

**B'NAI B'RITH** 1640 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, NORTHWEST, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 • (202) 857-6600

July 7, 1977

Ms. Edith J. Miller  
Assistant to the President  
Union of American Hebrew Congregations  
838 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York 10021

Dear Edie:

Thanks very much for your letter of June 30.

Rabbi Schindler did not discuss my letter of June 24 with me when I saw him in Washington yesterday. I presume I will see him in Israel; I am leaving this evening.

I delivered your regards to your B'nai B'rith friends -- they are all glad to hear from you.

Sincerely,

David M. Blumberg

DMB/s



June 30, 1977

Mr. David M. Blumberg, President  
B'nai B'rith  
1640 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear David:

Your June 24th letter to Rabbi Schindler has just reached this office. He is out-of-the-city and not due back at this office until mid-July.

Since you and Alex will be seeing each other in Washington on July 6th, I am asking Yehuda to take a copy of the letter to Washington and perhaps you will have an opportunity to discuss it with Alex when you are together.

Have a wonderful summer and please convey my warmest regards to Janice and all my B'nai B'rith friends.

Sincerely,

Edith J. Miller  
Assistant to the President

cc: Yehuda Hellman



# B'NAI B'RITH

1640 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, NORTHWEST, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 • (202) 857-6600

DAVID M. BLUMBERG  
President

June 24, 1977

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, Chairman  
Conference of Presidents of  
Major American Jewish Organizations  
515 Park Avenue  
New York, New York 10022

Dear Alex:

With all the confusion that seems to be in the air at the present time relative to the major priorities of American Jewish life, it would seem logical to me that you, as Chairman of the Presidents Conference, would want to get together with the leaders of the major umbrella organizations in this country to develop some guidelines as to how these priorities can be handled.

You will note that I am sending copies of this letter to the leaders of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, American Israel Public Affairs Committee, United Jewish Appeal, and the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, so that they will be acquainted with my thoughts on the subject matter.

If this be chutzpah on my part, so be it, but I do not believe that we can continue in the American Jewish community to have questions raised about our unity without you and the other leaders sitting down to talk about it.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

David M. Blumberg

DMB/s

cc: Theodore R. Mann, NJCRAC  
Jerold C. Hoffberger, CJFWF  
Lawrence Weinberg, AIPAC  
Leonard R. Strelitz, UJA  
Eugene Gold, NCSJ

April 14, 1977

Mrs. Irene Manekofsky, President  
Washington Committee for Soviet Jewry  
2920 Arlington Boulevard  
Arlington, Virginia 22204

Dear Irene:

What a nice surprise to have your name appear on my desk. It's been such a long time since we were last in touch, far too long. I hope all is well with you and the family -- and you really should bring me up-to-date on the mishpochah. I can see that you are involved and busy and that's as I would expect. As for myself, I am fat and happy and busy and well so I can't complain.

We also received a letter from the friends of Alexander Feldman in Israel and have forwarded it to the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, as we do with all such correspondence since Soviet Jewry is under their domain.

Keep in touch and let me know how things are with you. My fondest regards to one and all.

Sincerely,

Edith J. Miller  
Assistant to the President





WASHINGTON COMMITTEE FOR SOVIET JEWRY  
2920 Arlington Blvd. Arlington, Va. 22204  
920-0720

April 11, 1977

Rabbi Alexander Schindler  
Union of American Hebrew Congregations  
838 Fifth Avenue  
New YORK, N. Y. 10021

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

Enclosed is an appeal addressed to you which was sent to me  
by friends of Alexander Feldman in Israel, mailed by Yuli Tartakovsky,  
Beit Brodetsky, Ramat Aviv, Israel. A second appeal was addressed to  
President Carter.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Irene Manekofsky  
President

PLOVER BOND

25% COTTON FIBER

December 23, 1976

Mr. Alvin F. Friedman  
Amalgamated Trust & Savings Bank  
100 South State  
Chicago, Illinois 60603

Dear Mr. Friedman:

Many thanks for your letter of December 17 in regard to Soviet Jewry.  
I appreciate your taking the time to share your thoughts with me.

Let me assure you that I am committed to the rights of Soviet Jews  
to lead a Jewish life in the U.S.S.R. and to emigrate to the country  
of their choice freely

With kindest greetings, I am

Sincerely,

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler  
Chairman

Alvin F. Friedman, Senior Vice President  
Private Phone (312) 822-3022

**Amalgamated  
Bank** State Street at Monroe  
Member FDIC.

December 17, 1976

Rabbi Alexander Schindler  
Conf. of Major Jewish Organizations  
838 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York, 10021

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

I understand that a decision was reached by the  
Interorganizational Committee on Soviet Jewish  
Emigration to discontinue all financial help by  
HIAS to dropouts in Vienna.

I urge you to use your good offices to rescind this  
decision. Please!

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



Alvin F. Friedman

AFF/lm



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RICHARD A. WEGMAN  
CHIEF COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

January 6, 1977

*No answer*

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, President  
Union of American Hebrew Congregations  
838 Fifth Avenue  
New York, N. Y. 10021

Dear Alex:

I am so sorry to hear that you were ill during the Christmas holidays. I do hope that you have fully recovered.

I had looked forward to seeing you in Florida and to having an opportunity to chat.

The next time you are in Washington, I hope you will leave time to talk with me.

With all my best.

Sincerely,



Abe Ribicoff

November 15, 1976

Dr. and Mrs. Seymour Glick  
Rechov Moriah 15/4  
Beer Shevah, Israel

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Glick:

Rabbi Schindler is currently out-of-the-country but before he departed I was able to tell him via telephone of your letter in behalf of Vladimir Spapak. He asked me to send you his warm regards and his assurance that he will do everything in his power to be of assistance in this situation.

With kindest greetings, I am

Sincerely,

Edith J. Miller  
Assistant to the President

*See letter to Carter*

Eddie -

Please send copy  
to Jerry Goodman.  
and respond to letter  
I'll do everything he  
possibly can, etc



3 02

Rechov Moriah 15/4  
Beer Shevah, Israel  
November 8, 1976

Rabbi Alexander Schindler  
Union of American Hebrew Congregations  
Fifth Avenue  
New York, N.Y.

re: Vladimir Slepak

Dear Rabbi Schindler,

Forgive me for taking advantage of an old college friendship and asking a personal favor. I know that this case is not new to you and that you have been approached before.

Two years ago my husband and I (and our six children of course) realized our life long ambition and made aliyah. We continued our friendship with the Slepak family in Beer Shevah. My husband had made their acquaintance when he was in Russia.

Mrs Rashkovsky, the mother of Marsha Slepak, suffers so and is almost in a state of despair. Since the election she has a ray of hope that perhaps President-elect Carter can help her children. As you probably know, the latest news is that Vladimir has been arrested and nobody knows where he is.

According to the Israeli papers you have a personal relationship with Carter. If so perhaps you can put this letter into his hands. A letter of encouragement from his office or your office would help. She doesn't want to give up hope but often it is hard for her.

Whatever you can do for her will be appreciated. May G-d grant you wisdom and foresight in your present position.

If you, your wife or family are ever stranded in Beer Shevah please look us up

Sincerely,  
*Brenda Rubenstein Glick*  
Professor and Mrs Seymour Glick

(Brenda Rubenstein)

copy: Malcolm Hoenline

*cc Jerry Goodman*

Mr. J. Carter  
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES  
The White House  
Washington,  
U.S.A.

Dear Mr. President,

I am happy to join the millions congratulating you on your victory.

Allow an old woman to thank you for your noble move, a telegram that you have sent to my children, the Slepak family, supporting them in the struggle they are waging in the Soviet Union.

I am praying for the complete success of your mission, in the hope that among all the obligations and problems facing you at present you will not forget those who have been fighting for their freedom for many years but are still deprived of their human rights.

Let God's Mercy rest on you and your family.

Sincerely yours,

Berta Rashkovsky-Slepak  
48/9 Chernihovsky Street  
Jerusalem  
Israel

*Rashkovsky*

December 1, 1976

Mrs. Leonard F. Milner  
1417 Palisades Drive  
Pacific Palisades, Ca. 90272

Dear Mrs. Milner:

Thank you for your recent letter in regard to Soviet Jewry.

It is my understanding that this matter has been resolved satisfactorily.

Kindest greetings.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



Mrs. Leonard F. Milner  
1417 Palisades Drive  
Pacific Palisades, Calif. 90272

*Susan  
Milner*

Nov. 22, 1976

Dear Mr. Schendler,

I am very upset about the consideration of forcing Soviet Jews to go to Israel against their will if they are allowed to leave Russia.

We should help them get out but under no condition dictate where they should go. The slogan "Free Soviet Jews" should mean just that.

I hope you will use your influence to stop this immoral decision.

Sincerely,  
Susan Milner

December 1, 1976

Miss Elinor Schroeder  
P.O.B. 853  
Elsinore, CA. 92330

Dear Miss Schroeder:

Thank you for your recent letter on Soviet Jewry. It is my understanding that matters have been resolved satisfactorily.

With kindest greetings, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

~~Will do~~  
My understanding  
that matters have  
been resolved  
Satisfactorily  
23 November, '76

Dear Mr. Schindler,

I urge you to do all you can to block the shameful moves now underway to deny aid to Soviet Jews who choose not to go to Israel.

Such a decision would be a disgrace to the Jewish people and when we place Zion above the Jew, we're in serious trouble.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Elinor Schroeder

Miss Elinor Schroeder  
POB 853  
Elsinore, Ca. 92330





RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER • UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS  
PRESIDENT 838 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021 (212) 249-0100

November 30, 1976

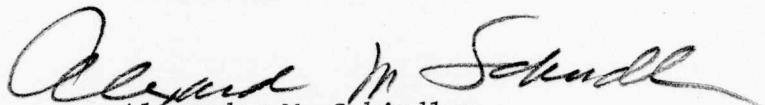
Ms. Rosalind Shoenig  
870 E. 12th Street  
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11230

Dear Ms. Shoenig:

The article by Mrs. Gross in The Jewish Press was written, as far as I can tell, without any true knowledge of the situation. I do know that there was no discussion with me as to my view or that of the Presidents' Conference and such a lengthy article should have been written only after some discussion and understanding of the particular situation.

With kindest greetings.

Sincerely,



Alexander M. Schindler

Dec. 8, 1976.

Dear Rabbi Schindler,

Please, ask that the  
decision to withhold  
help from Soviet Jews  
be rescinded.

Anyone that is allowed  
to leave the U.S.S.R.  
should be able to do so.

Sincerely,  
Samuel Epstein  
& family.

1137 Commonwealth  
Clev. Ohio 44124.

November 30, 1976

Ms. Rosalind Shoenig  
870 E. 12th Street  
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11230

Dear Ms. Shoenig:

The article by Mrs. Gross in The Jewish Press was written, as far as I can tell, without any true knowledge of the situation. I do know that there was no discussion with me as to my view or that of the Presidents' Conference and such a lengthy article should have been written only after some discussion and understanding of the particular situation.

With kindest greetings.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



870 E 12 St

Brooklyn, N.Y.

November 2, 1976

Dear Dr Schudde,

I was very upset by the enclosed article which appeared in the Jewish Press. If the situation is as pessimistic as the <sup>Brown</sup> pants it then it is a concern for our people. I would feel better if you would take the effort to reassure me on our representation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

Rosalind Shoenig

please  
send to Shudler — 1

# THE POLITICAL SCENE

By HILLY GROSS

I'm not sure who Alexander Schindler and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations are, but I do know they've got to go. To the uninitiated, this imposingly titled group conjures up visions of a potent, even vigilant cadre of Jewish leadership elite, who poised like a coiled spring, will leap into action at the slightest threat to the security and well-being of the Jewish community. To those of us who know better, the group's forte is attending punch and cookie receptions in the East Room of the White House, and then dutifully appearing before the media to pronounce themselves "satisfied" or "gratified" at whatever presidential policy we've sent them there to protest against, in the first place. In short, the group for the most part, is topheavy with individuals whose conception of their Jewish leadership role is to keep the lid on, and don't make waves. Defuse, but never ignite, could well be their philosophical credo.

Last week Schindler and his group had their finest hour. After General Brown, who is rapidly becoming to Jews, what General Custer was to Indians, opened up again with an observation that Israel was a military burden to the United States, reaction was swift and forthright. Indignant protests and angry demands for

came from every quarter. Every quarter, that is except from Schindler and the Conference of Presidents.

In a Press release vague enough to give waffling and indecision a bad name, the Conference confessed as to how it was "deeply disturbed" by the General's remarks, and that it was seeking "an explanation from the White House" as to what the General actually meant. What the General meant, you turkeys, was that if it were up to him the Israeli Government wouldn't be issued an Army blanket. Let alone a missile system. Other Jewish leaders grasped it, politicians sensed it, and the rank and file Jew understood it. Yet Schindler's group hesitated, and their hesitation cost us the ball game.

For the conference's deliberately vague, artfully tentative, let's go slow on this one, approach allowed the media and the political process to incorrectly interpret that we were "divided" and "mixed" as to what the appropriate action against Brown should be.

The Conference quite literally cut the ground out from under us. For how can we realistically expect others to pick up the cudgels of militant action on our behalf, when the group they incorrectly perceive as our spokesmen, shows no outrage, demands no reprimand, but would like an explanation.

Paradoxically, Schindler and his Conference were far more ar-

ticulate and unequivocal the week before when they pledged full support for the NAACP's bail bond case in Mississippi.

The General Brown incident is a perfect case study of what is wrong with Jewish leadership. Weak, ineffectual men, who inhabit strong titles. Men perceived as leaders by all except those they lead. Men who have been all too willingly coopted by the very system we have designated them to take on in our behalf. In short, men, more concerned with the public relations gesture, than the substantive action.

The Brown fiasco must serve as an alarm bell that our response mechanism, in time of crisis is woefully inadequate. Men like Alexander Schindler and the others are undoubtedly decent and dedicated individuals. But time and again they have demonstrated that they are ill-equipped, and in over their heads when it comes to dealing with the complexities of Jewish political existence in third century America.

Because of their collective inability to defend our interests, our community is left vulnerable, exposed, and threatened. A condition, which in the long run, poses perhaps a greater threat to our survival than does General Brown.

## Al Tido

WE DARE

By RABBI HARRY

PRESIDENT OF "AL TIDO"

### Winter

With the ending of the Holiday Season, we will begin another winter. For three million of our brethren trapped behind the Iron Curtain, all year is winter. They were born in winter, they grew up in winter, and now they endure winter — a winter of a soul and spirit, devoid of the warmth of Jewish learning and living and the flame of hope to reach their Homeland.

Alexander Slepak, an activist enduring a prolonged struggle for freedom to emigrate, described eight days of solitary confinement in a small box-like cell with iron and concrete walls. Slepak complained of the cold entering through the window panes into the room. But the physical does not effect Slepak. The chilling sense of isolation, the hands of a man, one to con-

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RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER • UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS  
PRESIDENT 838 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021 (212) 249-0100

November 8, 1976

Mr. Si Frumkin, Chairman  
Southern California Council  
for Soviet Jews  
401 East 6th Street  
Los Angeles, Ca. 90014

Dear Mr. Frumkin:

I have your letter of November 2 as well as a letter addressed to me at the Presidents' Conference some days ago.

Needless to say, the information which you sent me it not new to me and that includes the Hammer interview which was called to my attention on the day on which it appeared in print, ~~although~~ I must note that I found the information which you gleaned from the reporter quite enlightening.

~~Let me say at once that I apparently share many of the principles which move you, as Rabbi Herman may well have apprised you. However, you do labor under an illusion when you think that I am part of the "decision-making process on the emigration of Jews from the USSR to the USA."~~

I was not a part of the Committee of Eight. The International Steering Committee on Soviet Jewry, of which I am a part, was not directly involved either. At the last minute two American Jewish community organizations were "co-opted" not to share in the decision-making process, I take it, but merely to be told what the decision was. I refer to Eugene Gold of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry and Theodore Mann of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council. The Chairman of the Presidents' Conference was not involved, possibly because my views on this subject were known since I had publicly stated them.

~~All this is not to say that the entire issue is one-sided and that we are not faced with a cruel dilemma. Nor do I mean to suggest that I would not be most willing to be of help as we work toward a resolution of this terrible problem, but for the moment at least I pretty much am helpless and there is very little doubt in my mind that the problem was compounded because the decisions were made unilaterally and secretly and without the wider involvement of our communities' leadership. If I can seek to be of help and to get involved I will, but in the meantime I can only express my views privately and for the Reform Movement, which I have every intention of doing.~~


*Certainly not*



Mr. Si Frumkin  
November 8, 1976  
Page -2-

With kindest greetings and every good wish, I am

Sincerely,



Alexander M. Schindler

cc: Rabbi Erwin L. Herman

# Committee of Concerned Scientists, Inc.

9 East 40 Street  
New York, N.Y. 10016  
Tel. (212) 686-8862

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Affiliation for identification purposes only.

July 27, 1976

Rabbi Alexander Schindler  
President's Conference  
515 Park Avenue  
New York, New York 10022

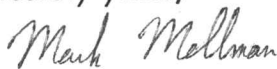
Dear Rabbi Schindler:

You may be interested in the enclosed press release concerning action by the International Society of Endocrinology on behalf of Dr. Mikhail Shtern.

It should be noted that the only two countries which voted against the resolution were Egypt and Mexico (the USSR is not represented). Rumanian doctors supported it while those from Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria abstained.

While the delegates represented local endocrine societies and not their governments, one cannot discount their perception of the prevailing political winds at home.

Sincerely yours,



Mark S. Mellman  
Executive Director

msm/eja  
enclosure

## news release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Further Information

Mark S. Mellman

(212) 686-8862 or (212) 874-5666

### INTERNATIONAL ENDOCRINE SOCIETY ACTS ON SHTERN CASE

New York City, July 23, 1976. In an unprecedented action, the International Society of Endocrinology took official note of the situation of Soviet Jewish endocrinologist, Dr. Mikhail Shtern. Meeting at the Fifth International Congress of Endocrinology in Hamburg, FRG this week, the Society's Central Committee instructed its Secretary General to make available to Member Societies details of the Shtern case which he had in his possession. (Full Text of the resolution attached.)

Dr. Shtern, a leading endocrinologist from the Ukraine, was sentenced in December 1974 to eight years in an "intensified regime" labor camp after refusing to prohibit his sons from emigrating to Israel. Despite serious heart and spinal ailments Shtern was recently transferred to hard labor.

The action by the International Society followed a resolution passed by the American Endocrine Society on June 24th which noted that "members will find future scientific cooperative efforts obstructed by thoughts of Dr. Shtern's continued imprisonment." Both resolutions were considered "firsts" in that neither group had taken action on such a matter before.

Dr. Luciano Martini of Italy introduced Dr. Shtern's case to the Central Committee while Dr. Robert Gregerman of the Johns Hopkins University Medical School and a Vice-Chairman of the Committee of Concerned Scientists led the movement for action among the delegates.

The final vote of the Central Committee saw doctors from Rumania supporting the resolution while representatives of three other Eastern European nations abstained.

Dr. Victor Shtern, the son of Mikhail Shtern, who was present in Hamburg for the Congress, hailed the resolution calling it "an important precedent and an important message to the Soviet government." Shtern was particularly impressed by the fact that of the thirty five nations represented in the Society only two voted against the resolution. Shtern felt that action by such a prestigious international society would do a great deal to alleviate his father's plight.

The Committee of Concerned Scientists is made up of over four thousand U.S. scientists. An independent national organization, the Committee is committed to constructive action on behalf of colleagues in the USSR and elsewhere who are denied their fundamental scientific and human rights.



RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE FIFTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ENDOCRINOLOGY  
JULY 23, 1976

Resolved that the Central Committee instructs the Secretary General to make available to all Member Societies the correspondence which he has in his possession regarding the Shtern matter or any other similar affairs.

RESOLUTION OF THE ENDOCRINE SOCIETY ON BEHALF OF MIKHAIL SHTERN  
Passed on June 24, 1976

The members of the Endocrine Society are engaged in joint scientific and medical efforts with their Soviet counterparts and others throughout the world in the service of humanity.

Society holds that such human consideration transcends national boundaries and political and philosophic differences.

In the name of the same humanity the members of the Endocrine Society unanimously resolve to lend their professional influence in order to help their colleague, Dr. Mikhail Shtern former director and senior consultant of the Polyklinik of the Vinnitsa Provincial Endocrinological Health Centre.

We are aware that Dr. Shtern is seriously ill and we are sensitive to his suffering. The members of the Endocrine Society will find future scientific cooperative efforts obstructed by thoughts of Dr. Shtern's continued imprisonment. We therefore appeal to the Soviet government to release Dr. Shtern from prison and to allow him to spend his remaining years reunited with his family.

September 21, 1976

Mr. Ronald L. Daniels  
Arday Jewelers & Distributors  
2320 Euclid Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50310

Dear Mr. Daniels:

I have your recent letter and the material you were kind enough to share with me.

I am taking the liberty of forwarding the petitions and your letter to the National Conference on Soviet Jewry since that is the organization which deals with all matters concerning Russian Jewry. I assure you the American Jewish community is deeply concerned and involved in this issue and it seeks to render every possible aid to that valiant group of Jews in the Soviet Union.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

cc: National Conference on  
Soviet Jewry  
Ronald L. Daniels, Israel

THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

May 17, 1976

cc: Charlotte Jacobson  
Guy Goodson  
Eg. Rapp.

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

I was pleased to receive your kind letter of April 9. We are both fortunate that Israeli hospitality does not require that the guest always say what his hosts would like to hear.

We are well aware of the unfortunate cases of Dr. Shtern and Professor Levich. I must tell you frankly that in the present circumstances our ability to promote favorable resolution of such cases is somewhat circumscribed. Nevertheless, we have repeatedly brought up with the Soviet leaders the issue of Jewish emigration and human rights, and I can assure you we will continue to do so.

I do not wish to paint too bleak a picture of the emigration situation. We are encouraged by the fact that since last fall the monthly figures have averaged about 1,200, which is somewhat higher than the levels of the first nine months last year. We were also happy to hear that a number of high interest cases were resolved earlier this year. I think it is important not to lose sight of the fact that nearly 120,000 Soviet Jews have emigrated to Israel since 1971. Seen in the light of history, that figure seems rather remarkable.

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler,  
Chairman,  
Conference of Presidents of Major  
American Jewish Organizations,  
515 Park Avenue,  
New York, New York.

-2-

I hope we can get together soon and look forward to seeing you.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a stylized 'H' followed by a horizontal line and a large, sweeping flourish that extends to the right.

Henry A. Kissinger



April 9, 1976

The Honorable Henry Kissinger  
Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Dr. Kissinger:

I have just returned from my first visit to Israel as the Chairman of the Presidents' Conference. I raised a few eyebrows and ruffled no few hairs there with what I said, how I said it and to whom I said it. You may be sure that not the least among my statements was an impassioned defense of your policies and person. All this is really too insignificant to come to your attention, but I do want you to know about it anyhow.

I am still hoping to have an opportunity to talk with you privately. As a matter of courtesy, I asked Max to arrange this but he has been unable to do so. I believe that such a frank and private exchange, however brief, might be of mutual benefit.

I turn to you now on another matter entirely and I do so at this time out of an awareness of the Chassidic tradition and the teachings of The Baal Shem Tov who believed that at various times during the year the powers of Pidyon Shevuim operate more intensely than at other times. One such period is the weeks prior to Pesach, Zmon Cherutaynu. I write to appeal for your intercession in behalf of two Soviet Jews, Dr. Mikhail Shtern and Benjamin Levich. I am certain their cases are all too familiar to you and that you know how significant a solution of their plight would be in all respects. It is my fond hope that you will do your utmost to intercede in their behalf.

Now that I have done my mitzvah in preparation for Pesach, I feel a little better about it all, but still better will I feel if you can help me to bring this mitzvah to fulfillment.

Dr/ Henry Kissinger  
April 9, 1976  
Page -2-

Mrs. Schindler joins me in expressing warmest regards to  
you and your charming wife and in wishing you well at  
this season of the year.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler  
Chairman

bcc: Mr. Yehuda Hellman  
Mrs. Charlotte Jacobson  
Mr. Stanley Lowell

# National Conference on Soviet Jewry

May 18, 1976

fe

## Executive Committee

Stanley H. Lowell, Chairman  
American Jewish Congress  
Richard Maass, Immediate Past Chairman  
American Jewish Committee  
Charlotte Jacobson, Vice-Chairwoman  
World Zionist Organization, American Section  
Rabbi David Hill, Vice-Chairman  
National Council of Young Israel  
Joel Sprayregen, Vice-Chairman  
Chicago, Illinois  
David Blumberg, Vice-Chairman  
B'nai B'rith  
Lewis Cole, Vice-Chairman  
National Jewish Community  
Relations Advisory Council  
Jeffrey Feldman, Secretary  
North American Jewish Youth Council  
Jordan Band, Treasurer  
Cleveland, Ohio  
Sidney M. Weinstein, Financial Secretary  
Metropolitan New Jersey  
Albert D. Chernin  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
Willard Chotiner  
Los Angeles, California  
Ruth Dolkart  
National Council of Jewish Women  
Sol Goldstein  
Baltimore, Maryland  
Gunther Lawrence  
Union of American Hebrew Congregations  
Jacqueline Levine  
Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds  
Rabbi David Panitz  
Synagogue Council of America  
Allen Pollack  
Labor Zionist Alliance  
Rabbi Steven Riskin  
Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry  
Bernice Salpeter  
Hadassah  
Jacob Scheinkman  
Jewish Labor Committee/Workmen's Circle  
Jerry Goodman, Executive Director  
June Silver Rogul, Washington Representative

## Constituent Organizations

American Federation of Jewish Fighters, Camp Inmates  
and Nazi Victims, Inc.  
American Israel Public Affairs Committee  
American Jewish Committee  
American Jewish Congress/AJCongress  
Women's Division  
American Mizrahi Women  
American Zionist Federation  
Americans for Progressive Israel/Hashomer Hatzair  
Anti-Defamation League for B'nai Brith  
B'nai Brith/B'nai Brith Women  
B'nai Zion  
Birth Shalom  
Central Conference of American Rabbis  
Conference of Presidents of Major American  
Jewish Organizations  
Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds  
Free Sons of Israel  
Hadassah, Women's Zionist Organization of America  
Jewish Labor Committee/Workmen's Circle  
Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A.  
Labor Zionist Alliance  
National Committee for Labor Israel Inc.  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Council of Young Israel  
National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council  
National Jewish Welfare Board  
North American Jewish Youth Council  
Pioneer Women  
Rabbinical Assembly  
Rabbinical Council of America  
Religious Zionists of America—Mizrahi, Hapoel Hamizrachi  
Women's Organization of Hapoel Hamizrachi  
Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry  
Synagogue Council of America  
Union of American Hebrew Congregations  
Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America  
United Synagogue of America  
United Zionists-Revisionists of America  
Women's American ORT  
The World Zionist Organization, American Section  
Zionist Organization of America

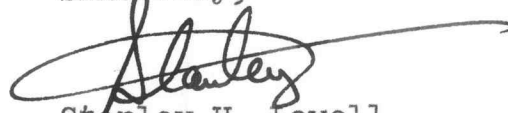
TO: Rabbi Alex Schindler  
Mrs. Charlotte Jacobson  
Rabbi Israel Miller  
Mr. I. Rager  
Eugene Gold, Esq.

Enclosed is a response to me dated May 13th from David Susskind in Brussels. He acknowledges receipt of the \$5,000. and reaffirms his hope that the additional \$9,000. will be sent. However, he does not respond to the suggestion in my last letter to him that we receive some statement of revenue and expenses.

I feel strongly that we must find some way to clean up our obligations and, of course, I believe that we should have a statement of expenses and income.

Perhaps, someone else should contact him in the very near future.

Sincerely,

  
Stanley H. Lowell  
Chairman

SHL:js  
Encl.

cc: Mr. Jerry Goodman  
Mr. Yehudah Hellman  
Mr. Malcolm Hoenlein



UNITED SYNOGOGUE OF AMERICA



22 April, 1976  
22 Nissan, 5736

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler  
Chairman, Conference of Presidents

FIRST FOLD קפל ראשון

השולח - SENDER - EXPÉDITEUR

2 AGRON STREET,

NAME

P.O.B. 7456

ADDRESS

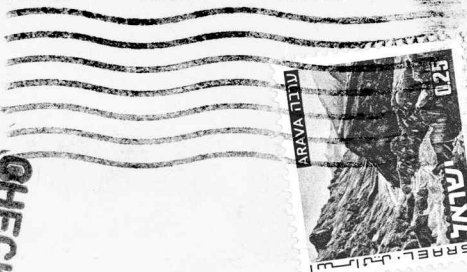
JERUSALEM 94265 ISRAEL

CODE

מיקוד

אין להוסיף על דבר זה. כל חפץ או חומר שיש בו כדי להזיק או להפגע  
UN AÉROGRAMME CONTENANT UN OBJET QUELCONQUE SERA ENVOYÉ AU TARIF D'UNE LETTRE - AVION.  
AN AÉROGRAMME CONTAINING ANY ENCLOSURE WILL BE SENT AT AIRMAIL - LETTER RATE.

SECOND FOLD קפל שני



Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler  
Chairman, Conference of Presidents  
515 Park Avenue  
New York, N. Y. 10022  
USA

PAR AVION • AÉROGRAMME • איירט אוויר





בתי הכנסת המאוחדים באמריקה  
UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF AMERICA

22 April, 1976

22 Nissan, 5736

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler  
Chairman, Conference of Presidents  
515 Park Avenue  
New York, N. Y. 10022

Dear Alex:

I want you to know how appreciative we are of your efforts on behalf of George and Alexander Sokirianski. I fully understand your inability to intercede on their behalf for "very cogent reasons".

I will certainly forward this information to the parties concerned.

When you are next in Jerusalem, do stop by for a change of pace.

With kind and cordial regards.

בית הכנסת המאוחדים

Yours sincerely

Dr. Pesach Schindler

PS:mmg

April 26, 1976

Mr. Jerry Goodman  
National Conference on Soviet Jewry  
55 West 42nd Street - Suite 804  
New York, New York 10036

Dear Jerry:

I just received the enclosed cable from Leon Jick and hasten  
to share it with you for handling.

With warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

Encl.





April 22, 1976

Mr. Bernard Nussenfeld  
98-40 57th Avenue  
Rego Park, New York 11368

Dear Mr. Nussenfeld:

It was gratifying to receive your warm message of congratulations for my speech at the Brussels Conference on Soviet Jewry. I am deeply grateful to you for your expression of support.

With warm regards, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



# Erste Tyczyner Kranken Unt. Verein

Bernard Nussenfeld  
98-40 57th Ave.  
Rego Park, NY 11368

Sec'y

Jackson Heights, N. Y. 11372

Tel. GR 8-1706 592-0834

Mar. 16, 1976

Dear Rabbi Schindler,

The members of this organization wish to commend you on your stirring speech at the Brussels Conference on Soviet Jewry.

Sincerely

Bernard Nussenfeld  
Sec'y.

Deeply appreciate their  
good wishes.

April 19, 1976

Mr. Richard Cohen  
American Jewish Congress  
15 East 84th Street  
New York, N.Y. 10028

Dear Dick:

Many thanks for sharing your article with me. I read it with interest.

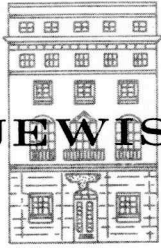
It was your convention -- in the sense that what you did was about the best part of it all.

With warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

# AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS



STEPHEN WISE CONGRESS HOUSE • 15 EAST 84TH STREET • NEW YORK, N. Y. 10028 • TR 9-4500

RICHARD COHEN  
ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 13, 1976

Rabbi Alexander C. Schindler  
Union of American Hebrew  
Congregations  
838 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York 10021

Dear Alex:

In the event you haven't seen it, I thought you'd be interested in reading my account of the Brussels Conference as it appeared in Congress Monthly Magazine.

With Passover greetings,

Sincerely,

Richard Cohen

Enclosure

*Acknowledge with thanks  
deeply grateful  
Read with interest  
It was your contribution - in the  
sense that what you did  
was about the best part  
of it all.  
Alex*

April 9, 1976

Dr. Pesach Schindler  
United Synagogue of America  
2 Agron Street  
Jerusalem, ISRAEL

Dear Pesach:

Your letter of March 21 and the relevant material you shared awaited my return from a whirlwind trip to Israel. I hope you will understand and forgive the delay in responding.

Regretfully, I will not be able to become involved in the case of George and Alexander Sokirianski. I have looked into the situation at this end and for a number of reasons, all cogent, I cannot intercede in their behalf. I have just made a plea for Dr. Mikhail Shtern and Benjamin Levich so I want you to know that I do care and I do become involved when I feel it will be helpful. In the case which you call to my attention I simply cannot become involved.

Rhea joins me in sending love to all the family, may you have a sweet and joyous Pesach.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler, Rabbi  
Chairman





בתי הכנסת המאוחדים באמריקה  
UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF AMERICA

לשכת המנהל  
Office of the Director

21 March, 1976

19 Adar B, 5736

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler  
President, Union of American Hebrew Congregations  
838 Fifth Avenue  
New York, N. Y. 10021

Dear Alex:

It is with great hesitation that I am about to exploit family ties in order to ask your personal intervention on behalf of two children left behind in Soviet Russia by Abraham Sokirianski twenty-five years ago. Although numerous cases related to the Russian Jewish tragedy cross my desk and our movement, like many other arms of the Jewish community, has sought, each in its own way, to do its best, we have here no doubt a Yotze Min Haklal. The case here is of such importance that the usual channels will not suffice.

Though you must be pressured from many sides on different issues, I am wondering whether you might personally bring the case of George and Alexander Sokirianski to the attention of Henry Kissinger and/or Hubert Humphrey, Henry Jackson or any other personage on the highest level of the United States Government.

May I conclude with one of your favorite topics, Chasidic Tradition. The Baal Shem Tov believed that at various times during the year the powers of Pidyon Shevuim operate more intensely than at other times. One such period is the weeks prior to Pesach, Zmon Cherutaynu. May this Hasidic tradition strengthen you in the event that you decide to become a Melitz Yosher in the best Jewish sense.

Love from home to home.

Yours sincerely

הרב אברהם שחורי

PS:mmg

Dr. Pesach Schindler

Encs.

P. S. I am enclosing relevant material.

Abraham Sokirianski  
P.O.B. 2446  
Jerusalem  
Israel

My name is Abraham Sokirianski, and for the last twenty five years I have lived in Israel.

Before the Second World War I had been living in Leningrad in Russia and in 1941 when the war broke out I drafted into the Soviet Army as an officer. By that time I had a boy - George two-and-a-half years old (born in 1939) and later on, after my leave, I had another boy - Alexander (born in 1944) whom I never got the chance to see.

After the war (in 1945) I was released from the Army (from active military service), but still stayed with the army as a civil volunteer in Poland. There I had a job concerned with German arms taken as spoils (in active service during the war I was a captain in a motor-tank division). As you know at that time my people here in Israel and in other places all over the world were fighting for their own liberation and the establishment of their own independent state. Being a Jew and patriotic I could not stay apart from the events which were going on the soil of my ancestors and elsewhere and I decided to leave for Israel.

First, I was hiding in Poland for two years and then fled illegally to Sweden. From Sweden I came to Israel. By that time I was proclaimed by the Soviets as a traitor, and they took their revenge on my sons.

Each of them at the age of ten was taken away from their mother and sent to a special colony for juvenile delinquents. At an older age they were punished more severely and sent to labour camps. At present my younger son, Alexander is still serving his sentence for so-called anti-Sovietic activity, and, as a matter of fact, for his desire to go to Israel and join his father.

A few months ago he wrote a letter to the Supreme Soviet Court pleading for clemency, which was turned down.

My second son, George Sokirianski, who lives in Leningrad has already been refused twice to immigrate to Israel. He is now struggling with other Jewish activists for the restoration of their right to free immigration. It is obvious that the main reason for his detention in Russia is my past "crime". His last demand was only rejected six months ago and he has to wait another year to apply again.

Would you kindly use your influence, and give me your full support to have my sons released from Russia and allow me the chance to see them by my side here in Israel, and take them into my arms at last before my death. I am an aged man, and I have no other desires in my life but to have my sons free and by my side. I believe you will understand my feeling as a father and I do hope your active interference will work.

I am looking forward to a fulfillment of the dream of my life. Once more I plead with you to help me.

Thank you,

Sincerely yours,

Abraham Sokirianski

Dear Sir,

Enclosed please find all the material in my possession,  
as follows:

1. Autobiography of George Sokirianski and Aleksander
2. Transcript of appeal by Aleksander
3. Letter written by Mr. Weintraub Yuri, attesting to  
facts regarding Aleksandr's arrests
4. Descriptive letter on the backgrounds of George and  
Aleksander (Sasha)
5. Letter summarizing their father's story - by Abraham  
Sokirianski
6. Copy of an appeal letter written by the father to Brezniev.

Please find also their addresses:

George Sokirianski  
Ul. Vosstaneya 15/57  
Leningrad 193036  
U S S R

Prison Address: Aleksander Sokirianski  
KOMIASSR Kniajpogotsky Raion  
P.O.B. 243-1-3  
USSR

For Correspondence:  
Aleksander Sokirianski  
P.O.B. 51110 A.N.  
Moscow  
USSR

Thanking you for your efforts on the behalf of my sons.

Sincerely yours,

Abraham Sokirianski  
P.O.B. 2446  
Jerusalem  
Israel



Translated from Russian

Written by GIORGI SOKIRIANSKI

Autobiography

On the 10th of October of last year I submitted to the OVIR the necessary documents for receiving a permit to go to Israel, my historic homeland, the country where my relatives and friends are waiting for me.

I did not have any doubt that such a permit will be issued to me. Yet 3 months after the submission of the documents I was invited by an order to the OVIR where the Deputy Director of the Leningrad Department of Interior Affairs, Commissar of the Militia of the 3rd rank N.V. Smirnov, has offered me in the presence of the Director of the OVIR Bukov to read the decision of a commission of which he is the head and which has decided not to grant me the permit. The reason for the denial of the permit was, allegedly, the fact that 28 years ago, in 1946 my father has committed some kind of a crime while being in Poland and has escaped overseas.

To my question about the connection between my desire to go to the Homeland of my Forefathers and between my father's actions which took place almost 30 years ago General Smirnov said that there is a law according to which relatives of traitors to Motherland are forbidden to leave the country until the criminal will not come and admit his guilt to the Soviet authorities. I did not receive any reasonable answers to all my other questions either on that day or later, when I appealed with a statement to the KGB.

In order to clarify the stated above, I must deal with the story which served as the reason for the justification of the refusal given to me, i.e. I must tell the story of my family.

I was born in 1939 in Leningrad. Our family then consisted of 4 persons: father, mother, older sister and I. Father worked as a director of a factory section when I was born and mother was a housewife.

During the first days of the war father was called to the army, as he was Lieutenant of the reserves, and we remained in Leningrad. We lived there during all the years of the war. My sister died of hunger during the war (during the blockade of Leningrad). In 1943 father came to Leningrad, and that was the last time I saw father. In 1944 my brother Aleksander was born.



In 1946 we stopped receiving letters and material help from father. Mother wrote to his unit and the answer of the commander of the unit was that father has been listed as missing. During 3 years of continuous searches all the instances have sent us a standard answer: "listed as missing".

In 1949 I went to school and already in 1950, following a recommendation of the militia, I was sent for re-education to the Kamennomostskaya Children Labour-Educational Colony in the Krasnodarsky Kray, where I stayed for 4 years. In the meantime, my brother was placed in a boarding-school with special regime at the age of 9, in 1953, and spent there a year and a half.

In 1959 I was sentenced to 6 years of deprivation of freedom for being an accomplice in a burglary. In view of my having been a minor at the time when committing the crime, I was released after 3 years, by the decision of a commission of re-examination of the cases of minors.

During the period from 1956 to 1960 my brother was sent to a colony for re-education. Then, in 1961, he was convicted for theft and sentenced to 5 years of deprivation of freedom. He served his sentence in the children's colony in Grezovets. A year later he was sentenced again to 2.5 years of imprisonment. He has served the whole term of the sentence.

In the meantime I have finished high-school, by studying through correspondence and planned to enter a university. I could not realise my plan until 1965, because of illness - I suffered from ulcer and tuberculosis. Also, being a husband and a father I was in great material difficulties at that time. I passed my entrance examinations very well and was accepted to the extramural course of the Faculty of Philosophy, where I studied for 2.5 years only, as in 1968 I was arrested and convicted for currency operations. I was released in 1971.

Aleksander was convicted soon after me and was sentenced to 2 years for theft. In May 1971, 4 months after his release he was, according to mother's words, planning to apply for emigration to Israel, but was arrested and sentenced to 5 years of deprivation

of freedom for petty theft on a bus. He has categorically denied his guilt and, in his opinion, the theft was staged by his friend who has invited him to go somewhere together. During the trial Aleksander stated that he thinks that his arrest has been somehow connected with his intention to go to Israel.

The first 2 years of his term he spent in Imsk, in a colony for drug-addicts, where he was sent in accordance with the court's verdict and then he was transferred to Novgorod, where he stayed until December 1973. In December he was charged with participation in a fight, and for this his prison term was increased by another 6 months.

During the period of the investigation the KGB authorities had opened a case against him charging him with distributing rumours defaming the Soviet system, the charge being based on the statement of his cell-mates. The charge was later changed from Art. 190 to Art. 70 (propaganda and agitation against the Soviet regime).

During the time of my questioning, an investigator of the Novgorod KGB has told me that, among other things, my brother is charged with anti-Soviet propaganda among the prisoners and with an attempt to distribute some sort of letters written by him. The content of these letters have remained unknown. Apart from that, the investigator has said that Aleksander has written a letter addressed to me and tried to pass it to me through another prisoner, but he has given it to a prison official. The letter was meant to be transferred overseas. The investigator has also said that in July 1973 my brother was warned about his conversations with the prisoners in the camp.

In June there has been a trial where Aleksander was sentenced to 4 years of imprisonment under strict regime. Mother has tried to see him after the trial, but her request was denied under the pretext that the visit may only be allowed after the cassation appeal.

At the present time he is held in the Investigation Isolation Ward in Novgorod, POB 51/1.

June, 1974

Giorgi Sokirianski

November 24, 1974  
No. 1/149/74

Translated from Russian

Case No. 84-s74-1, 1974

D E C I S I O N

The Juridical Board for Criminal Cases of the Supreme Courts of RSFSR, composed of:

Chairman \_ Shishkin B.I.

Members of the Court - Evdokimenko A.V. and Kulichkova V.I.

at a court session on July 23, 1974 examined the case dealing with the appeal made by the convicted person Sokirianski against the verdict made by the Novgorod Regional Court on June 20, 1974, by which

Sokirianski Aleksander Abramovitch, born in 1944 in the city of Leningrad, a Jew, education - nine grades, married, has a child, previously convicted in January of 1961 to two years of deprivation of freedom in accordance with St. 144 part II of the Penal Code of the RSFSR, in October 1963 in the aggregate of statutes 224, p. 186 and 154 p. I of the Penal Code of the RSFSR to two years and 6 months of deprivation of freedom, in March of 1969 according to statutes 15 and 144 p. I and 192-I of the Penal Code of the RSFSR to two years of deprivation of freedom, in July 1971 according to St. 144 p. II of the Penal Code of the RSFSR to 5 years of deprivation of freedom, and in January 1974 according to statute 112 p. II of the Penal Code of the RSFSR, with the joining of the punishment to the preceeding sentence to 3 years and 16 days of deprivation of freedom, while serving his punishment, he was convicted according to statute 190-1 of the Penal Code of the RSFSR to 3 years of freedom and with the partial joining of the punishment to the preceeding sentence to 5 years of deprivation of freedom in a corrective-labour colony with a strict regime.

After hearing the report of the Member of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR Shishkin and the decision of the Procurator Zverev, who proposed that the sentence be left without change, the Judicial Board

D E C I D E D:

Sokirianski has been convicted for having systematically, in oral and written forms, spread deliberate false fabrications vilifying the Soviet Government and social system.



The crime was committed, as is shown in the verdict, under the following circumstances:

In June and September 1972, Sokirianski, in a letter illegally sent to his brother, wrote that he intended to fabricate by photographic methods documents of a harmful contents and to send these documents abroad for publication in the press, and he asked his brother to send him a photo camera and films.

On June 19, 1973, Sokirianski was officially warned by the KGB Department attached to the Soviet Ministers of the USSR of the Novgorod Region that such actions cannot be permitted.

In spite of this, Sokirianski, against whom criminal proceedings had been instituted and who was in an investigation isolation cell, in the space of December 1973 spread in an oral form among his cell inmates deliberate false fabrications that villified the Soviet Government and social system.

On December 20, 1973, Sokirianski slandered the domestic and the foreign policies of the USSR and the situation of the Jews in the USSR.

At the end of December 1973, in the presence of other arrested persons, he slandered the Soviet Government, the Soviet reality and the democratic foundations of the Soviet Government.

At the end of December 1973 Sokirianski again tried to send to his brother a statement with slanderous contents and asked that his letter be transmitted abroad for publication. In that letter he slandered the foreign policy of the USSR, the situation of the Jews in the USSR and he vilified the Investigative organs and Soviet justice.

On February 4, 1974 Sokirianski, in a conversation with the prisoner Barskov, slandered the socialist system, the CPSU and its leaders.

On February 6 and 7, 1974 Sokirianski, in the Investigative Isolation cell prepared 13 leaflets, in which were deliberately false fabrications vilifying the Soviet Government and social system. He intended to distribute the leaflets on February 23, on the Day of the Soviet Army. On February 10, 1974 he hung one of the leaflets on the inner wall of the Investigator Isolation Cell courtyard, used for walks.

Questioned at the court session, Sokirianski fully admitted guilt.

In his appeal Sokirianski points out that the Colony Administration treated him badly, insulted him and humiliated him and in connection with this he committed his crime so as to be transferred to another colony,



After checking the materials of the case and after discussing the arguments expressed in the appeal, the Judicial Board finds the sentence lawful and well-grounded.

In addition to the admissions made by the prisoner himself, Sokirianski's guilt of committing the crime provided for by st. 190-1 of the Penal Code of the RSFSR has been established by the leaflets attached to the file, the decision of criminological experts who have established that these were prepared by Sokirianski, by the facts of the discovery and the confiscation of the leaflets and by the testimony of the witnesses Savvateyev, Antonov, Starostin and Barokov, who confirmed that Sokirianski had expressed in their presence deliberately false fabrications vilifying the Soviet Government and social system.

According to the decision of the Court Psychiatric expert commission, Sokirianski was adjudged sane, even though signs of psychopathy were discovered.

Sokirianski's actions were correctly defined according to st. 190-1 of the Penal Code of the RSFSR.

The punishment meted to him was set in accordance with the act committed, and the taking into consideration of facts characterizing the personality of the person convicted.

The Judicial Board finds no grounds for reducing Sokirianski's punishment.

In the force of the above stated and guided by st. 339 of the Penal Procedure Code of the RSFSR, the Judicial Board

HAS DECIDED:

That the sentence pronounced by the Novgorod Regional Court on June 20, 1974 in relation to Sokirianski Aleksander Abramovich be left without change and that his appeal should not be granted.

Chairman - Shishkin

Members of the Court - Evdokimenko E., Kuluchkov I.

Correct: Member of the Supreme Court: Shishkin

Reference: Sokirianski A.A. is kept in Institution IZ-51/1 of the city of Novgorod.

It is my good fortune to bear witness and to be a participant in a true-to life story that had its beginnings many years ago in Leningrad, continues here in Israel, and unfortunately has not yet ended.

I have some material which is of such a political nature and of such current interest and dramatic overtones, that most circles of world public opinion would surely take an interest in it and endeavor towards helping to bring it to a happy ending.

I know that you will be interested in this story and I hope that all of us together will succeed in helping these remarkable and heroic individuals.

In Leningrad, there are many people whose only desire is to return to their historic homeland - the State of Israel. The way is not easy for everyone. Many of them have been fighting for this right for years, others continue to wait daily and hourly for the permission to depart.

There is one man among my friends whose fate has been in many respects different from the fate of others. At the end of 1973 he received a refusal on his application for departure to the State of Israel. The refusal was as follows: "To refuse to Sokirianski Giorgi Abramovitch in his application for departure to the State of Israel, because of the reason that in 1946 his father being in Poland in the ranks of the Soviet army, defected." The absurdity of this statement is obvious. What relation has a son to a father that failed to return when since that time 30 years have passed? Perhaps the old principles of Stalin still continues and nothing has changed since.

Here is the story from its beginnings. The father of Giorgi Sokirianski, Avraham Griegoveritch Sokirianski, was an officer in the Soviet army and for 8 years he diligently, unsparing of his own life, fought with the Japanese on the Cholchin-Gol, afterwards with the Finns on the Corelian Isthmus and the Line of Maunerheim, and from the first days of the 2nd World War fighting against Hitler. When the war ended he was appointed to the service in the Soviet Army situated in the Polish Territory. In 1946 he was demobilized and stayed in Poland working as a civilian.

As you know, at that time, the Jewish National Liberation Movement in Palestine was strengthening. The foundation of the future Jewish State was laid. Influenced by his National duty and sense of justice, he decided to play a role in this undertaking. But the Soviet security service somehow found out about his contacts. By a miracle he managed to escape at the last moment. With forged documents in the name of a Polish citizen and hiding in the coal hold of a ship with enormous risk to his life, he escaped to Sweden. Afterwards, he managed to get to the land of his ancestors, to the land of his dreams - Israel.

And so this man who was at War for 8 years, repeatedly risking his life and carrying out his duties, was labelled a traitor to his Motherland and a state criminal.

In Leningrad, Abraham Sokirianski left two sons. One of them was 5 years old when he left and the second son he did not see at all. He knew very well the habits of the Soviet authorities and being afraid of repercussions against his children, he did not correspond with them.

The fate of the children of this man have been tragic. The Soviet authorities do not like to forget offenses inflicted on them. In 1950, when they were sure that they would never find the culprit-father, they decided to take revenge through his children. Giorgi Sokirianski, at the age of 10 was put in a childrens institution or work prison for children.



There he stayed for 4 years. Many years after, Giorgi told his close friends about his life there and the hardships and countless futile escapes and the punishments and beatings when caught.

His younger brother, Aleksander Sokirianski, just like him, at the age of 9 was put in a children's institution for 5 and a half years. When they were both freed they were bewildered by their changed lives. The Soviet authorities had developed in them a sense of inferiority, estrangement and non-suitability to everyday normal living. Their path to developing real values and goals was not easy for them.

At the age of 15, Giorgi, under the influence of older and "more experienced" friends, again appears in court on trial. Who is to Blame? Can it be the same people who have the power to judge and pardon, who took away their childhood and thrust them into situations that can break stronger and older individuals? But in Russia one does not admit ones errors and Giorgi again finds himself in a childrens working colony for 3 years.

Already at that time a desire for knowledge developes in him. Under difficult conditions and stealing precious seconds and minutes from his work, he undertakes the study of Italian. Why Italian? Because somehow he has found an Italian textbook. After leaving the camp 1959, Giorgi successfully passes his exams without having attended formal lectures. He prepares himself for the University entrance exams. By that time his body falls prey to the illnesses contracted in camp thru the horrible conditions there (stomach ulcer and tuberculosis). He has to delay his studies. In 1965 he is finally able to start his studies. At Leningrad University he enters the Faculty of Philosophy. In 1968, the third year of his studies, he wrote an investigative paper on the subject "Defective Psychology" in which he investigated the psychology and origin of Criminality. Since that work did not agree with the official Soviet point of view, he was expelled from the University. Seeing in Giorgi a potential enemy, reasons are again found for isolating him.

As mentioned earlier, he had studied Italian and to perfection. Many times he would escort Italian tourists around Leningrad and tell them about life in the USSR. Many of these people became close friends to him. As a sign of gratitude he often received presents and at times even money from them. In the USSR it is enough to find \$20 on someone to accuse them of currency manipulations. And so once more Giorgi was accused and arrested and sentenced to 3 years in prison. During this period he managed to learn English and French. In 1971 he was released.

At that time his brother Alexander was seeking permission to leave the USSR for Israel. At that time also occurred the Leningrad trials, The authorities were cruelly punishing people who wanted to emigrate to Israel. And Aleksander Sokirianski was accused and sentenced to 5 years imprisonment. In the courtroom he openly admits that he has been accused for his desire to go to Israel. In December 1973, while in jail, he presented a declaration accusing the Soviet Government of being against Israel. In 1974 he was again accused of spreading rumors discrediting the Soviet Government and agitating against the authorities. He has been put in a special institution where he is subjected to untold cruelties. We fear for his already weak health.

Giorgi Sokirianski lives in Leningrad with his wife and daughter. He is a very cultured and intelligent person with knowledge of 4 languages. He is now studying Hebrew. He has managed to retain his sense of decency and humanity in spite of all his sufferings. All of us wonder at his strength and self control, his indomitable spirit. But we worry about his future and the fate of his brother who is threatened by physical annihilation in the torture chambers of the Soviet prisons.

I hope I have been able to interest all of you in this story of these people and that you will find, each one of you, a way to help them.

I, Yuri Weintraub, consider it my duty to bear testimony to certain facts, which are known to me and to a wide circle of Leningrad activists, about the fate of Aleksander (Sasha) Sokirianski, one of the sons of Avraham Sokirianski, a resident of Jerusalem. For many years, Sasha Sokirianski had been nurturing a desire to emigrate to Israel, being convinced that this was the only place where he belonged, and he wanted to be reunited with his father. From his early childhood, Sasha has been persecuted and harrassed by Soviet Authorities who were trying to take their vengeance on the son of a "traitor" as they termed his father. His life took an abnormal course.

The feelings of protest and hatred towards his tormentors, which Sasha was not always able or did not want to hide, brought him to a children's penal colony and later to prison on an unjust and undeserved charge.

Before his last arrest, Sasha told one of his close acquaintances, in confidence, that since he could not hope to leave the Soviet Union legally, he was planning to break through into a foreign embassy with a paper which he had especially prepared and was always carrying on him. Sasha's friend, who turned out to be a provocateur, betrayed him to the Soviet Security organs and on their orders helped to stage a "theft"; he secretly put into Sasha's overcoat pocket an object which did not belong to Sasha; detention followed immediately and both this object and the letter with a request for political asylum were found. During the investigation, Sasha took an independent attitude and did not care to conceal his anti-Soviet views. By doing so he brought upon himself a sentence of 8 years imprisonment on charges of theft and anti-Soviet slander. Similar cases, in which a political charge is supplemented by a criminal one are fairly common in the judicial practice of Soviet organs.

All the facts listed above appear in the case of Sasha Sokirianski, and when the American lawyers Barton Cane (Caine?) and others recently examined this case during their visit to Leningrad, they found in it the grossest violations committed both in the course of the investigation and during the trial itself.



By now Sasha has already served 4 years of his term and is imprisoned in one of the most horrible camps - in the Kriazpogost district of the Komi-Autonomous Republic. His health is in a very poor state.

Teh Penal Institutions Department has refused to transfer him to another camp. I entreat you to do everythin possible to save Aleksander Sokirianski who has been unjustly convicted and is suffering for his Zionist views.

3rd February, 1975

Yuri Weintraub

Abraham Sokirianski  
P.O.B. 2446  
Jerusalem  
Israel

Mr. L.I. Brezniev  
General Secretary  
Communist Party of USSR  
Kremlin, Moscow  
U S S R

Dear Sirs,

I dare to bother you on the matter of my sons, and I have no doubts that from the viewpoint of a human being, Father and Humanist you will give your attention to my plea.

I am an aged and sick man (I am 65 already.) I have a son in Russia his name is George Sokirianski and he is living in Leningrad with his family. For two years he has been refused permission to immigrate to Israel to join me. I have not seen my son for over thirty years and now my only desire is to have my son by my side. I am a sick man and would appreciate your doing a generous and extremely human deed of giving me a chance to see my son before my death, belief in our meeting in the possible mearest future helps me to go on.

I do not wish to interfere with your country policy but I do believe some people in Ovir of Leningrad undermine the situation and as a result I can't get my son here. Without your help, I am afraid I might never see him and you can imagine how should I feel at this thought.

You are the only person who is capable of helping me in my grief. Would you please personally interfere with the case of my son and give your instruction on issuing a visa to my son and his family to go to Israel. I heard many times from various sources that Soviet Government have no objection to let people who wish to immigrate to Israel, to join their relatives. That gave me the courage to write to you.

I do hope you will fulfill my natural desire to have my son with me before long.

I deeply apologies for bothering you and I am looking forward to holding my son in my arms after those long years of our separation.

Thank you very much indeed for your attention.

Sincerely yours,

Abraham Sokirianski

March 31, 1976

Mr. Jerry Goodman  
National Conference on Soviet Jewry  
11 West 42nd Street - Suite 1860  
New York, New York 10036

Dear Mr. Goodman:

Would it be possible for you to have the enclosed letter translated? We would be grateful for your help as there isn't anyone on our staff with enough background in the Russian language to determine the text of this letter.

I have a feeling it is undoubtedly a matter which Rabbi Schindler would be forwarding to you for disposition. That can only be determined once it is translated.

With appreciation and kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Edith J. Miller  
Assistant to the President

Encl.

*Shimonov  
Asst. Ben. Yeger 5/1/76  
Jerusalem*





# Telegram

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ICS IPMMIZZ CSP

2123541510 TDMT NEW YORK NY 100 01-22 1043A EST

PMS UNION OF AMERICAN HERBREW CONFERENCE , DLR

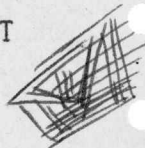
833 5 AVE

NEW YORK NY 10021

NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*102 took over  
NCSJ  
Sitting at my  
mat for NY  
Conf*

THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOVIET JEWRY ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT IT HAS REVERSED AN EARLIER DECISION AND WILL ALLOW RABBI MEIR KAHANE TO PRESENT THE KEY NOTE ADDRESS AT THE UP COMING WORLD CONFERENCE ON THE SOVIET JEWRY TO BE HELD IN BRUSSELS ON FEBRUARY 17. RABBI KAHANE WILL URGE THE WORLD CONFERENCE TO BEGIN AN IMMEDIATE CAMPAIGN TO CRUSH DETENTE WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND HE WILL CALL ON ALL NATIONAL JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS TO INITIATE HARASSMENT CAMPAIGNS AGAINST SOVIET OFFICIALS. IN AN EXTRAORDINARY PLENARY SESSION, THE NCSJ HAS VOTED





# Telegram

17 TO 16 TO ENDORSE RABBI KAHANE'S PROPOSAL

UNSIGNED

NNNN



## TEMPLE NER TAMID

THE EUCLID JEWISH CENTER

LAKE SHORE BOULEVARD AT EAST 250TH STREET • EUCLID, OHIO 44132 • 261-2280

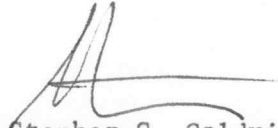
February 25, 1976

Dear Alex,

I was happy to read your call for new international drive to permit the free emigration of Soviet Jews. I hope we can couple this, also, with the needs for free-emigration for the Syrian Jews?

With all best wishes to you, Al Vorspan and the UAHC family, I remain,

Cordially yours,

  
Rabbi Stephen S. Goldrich, Chairman  
Committee on Jews in Arab Lands  
Central Conference of American Rabbis

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, Chairman  
Conference of Presidents of Major American  
Jewish Organizations  
838 - 5th. Ave.  
New York, N.Y. 10021

*P.S. Mazel Tov on your recent election as Chairman!*





# National Conference on Soviet Jewry

DATE: FEBRUARY 25, 1976

TO: STANLEY H. LOWELL

FROM: JERRY GOODMAN

How do you suggest we handle this letter from Leon W. Katz as attorney for the JDL, in regard to membership.

JG:de

cc: Charlotte Jacobson ✓  
Rabbi A. Schindler ✓  
Eugene Gold

FEB 16 1976

*Katz & Katz*

COUNSELORS AT LAW

141 CENTRAL PARK AVENUE, SOUTH

HARTSDALE, NEW YORK 10530

914 - 428-4464

February 13, 1976

National Conference on Soviet Jewry  
11 West 42nd Street  
New York, N.Y. 10036

Attention: Executive Director

Gentlemen:

We have been retained by the Jewish Defense League to represent them in their application for membership in your worthy organization.

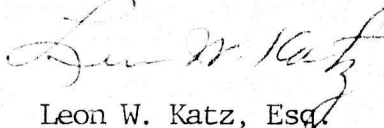
Records disclose that there was correspondence on this matter as follows: January 13, 1975 from Mr. Jerry Goodman

With full knowledge and understanding of your democratic procedures and your interest in having as many major groups, espousing the same ideals and principles as your own in being joined together and bound together, we would appreciate a reply as to the present standing of the application. Can you please have your legal representatives contact us?

Thank you.

Respectfully yours,

KATZ & KATZ



Leon W. Katz, Esq.

LWK:hd

February 11, 1976

Mr. Benjamin Gellman  
1505 41st Street  
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11218

Dear Mr. Gellman:

Your letter of February 6th has just reached me and I write to acknowledge its receipt.

The Brussels Conference on Soviet Jewry is not a program of the Presidents' Conference and your letter should have been addressed to the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. Invitations to the Brussels Conference come under the purview of that organization, and I am not in any way involved in the selection of delegates or participants.

QQ

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler  
Chairman



838 5<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
N.Y. #10021

1505 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11218  
Feb. 6, 1956

Rabbi Schindler  
Chairman of Conference  
of Presidents of Major  
Jewish Organizations

Dear Rabbi Schindler,  
I am sure that you are aware of  
the "Conference, Vahavut Javry" that  
is coming up in Brussels, Belgium.  
Rabbi Meir Kahane, who started the  
Conference, has not been invited.  
Rabbi Meir Kahane & the J.D.C. have  
done more for the Jewish people,  
all over the world, than any other  
person or organization. Rabbi Meir  
Kahane has more right to be  
seen & heard, as a speaker, Rep., than  
anybody else. We strongly urge  
you to see to it that he is invited  
as such.

Sincerely yours  
Benjamin G. Thon

December 29, 1975

Dr. A. Reiss  
World Federation of Polish Jews  
158, Dizengoff Street  
Tel-Aviv, Israel

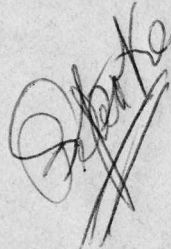
Dear Dr. Reiss:

Your letter of December 15th has just reached our office and I hasten to advise that Rabbi Schindler is out-of the country. He will be back late next week and will be in contact with you at that time.

With kindest greetings, I am

Sincerely,

Edith J. Miller  
Administrative Assistant

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "Edith J. Miller", written over a series of diagonal lines.



הפדרציה העולמית של יהודי פולין / ההנהלה הראשית  
וועלט־פעדעראציע פון פוילישע יידן / הויפט־לייטונג  
SWIATOWA FEDERACJA ŻYDÓW i POLSKI WORLD FEDERATION OF POLISH JEWS  
Zarząd główny Head Office

Tel-Aviv, 158, Dizengoff Street

Phone 225078 טלפון

תל־אביב, רחוב דיזנגוף 158

Cable Address: POLGRESS חברקס:

December 15th, 1975

Dr. Alexander Shindler  
838 FIFTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021  
U.S.A.

Dear Alex,

I arrived home from my trip, not in the best of health, and that is the reason why I am only writing to you today. I beg your pardon for this delay. That is also the reason why I did not come to Jerusalem during the emergency Conference.

I hope that you have no objections about my addressing myself to you on such familiar terms. That is the expression of my attitude towards you.

First of all I want to thank you sincerely that you consented to my request, to take upon yourself the post of President of our affiliate in the United States. It is a great honor for us, and will certainly enable the leadership there to broaden its activities.

I do not wish at this point to discuss our actual activities. Everything we are doing, or intend to do, has a single purpose: to perpetuate the spiritual heritage, of the martyred Polish Jewry.

We are now preparing, towards the thirtieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War, the publication of a monumental photo-album, of various events in the life of Polish Jewry, up to the outbreak of the Second World War. We must collect some 4,000 photographs - we have already gathered several hundred - in order that a committee of historians, engravers and authors stemming from Poland, should pick out the appropriate 450-500 photographs for the above-mentioned album, in order that it should fulfill the object for which it is intended.

We are continuing to photograph cemeteries in Poland, tombstones of public figures buried there, who were leaders of the Polish Jewish community, in order to preserve this for the history of Polish Jewry - which we are obligated to publish.

I am enclosing herewith a copy of our last letter to Dr. Sherman, which gives you information regarding our publication plans, and our demands to the "Foundation".



הפדרציה העולמית של יהודי פולין / ההנהלה הראשית  
וועלט־פעדעראציע פון פוילישע יידן / הויפט־לייטונג  
ŚWIATOWA FEDERACJA ŻYDÓW z POLSKI WORLD FEDERATION OF POLISH JEWS  
Zarząd główny Head Office

Tel-Aviv, 158, Dizengoff Street

טלפון 225078 Phone

תל־אביב, רחוב דיזנגוף 158

Cable Address: POLGRESS מברקס:

- 2 -

You have, undoubtedly been informed by the leadership of our branch in the United States about the campaign in connection with our demands to Polish Government. I do not know whether it will have any practical results, but it is a moral and national obligation, which we must fulfil and express by making these demands - As otherwise, we will have sinned against the history of Polish Jewry, and against the Jewish nation in general.

And now, for an important request from you: For several years now, we have been making demands upon the German Government regarding the restitutions for property which the Nazis robbed from organizations of Polish Jews which existed in Germany for many decades, in almost every city. They fulfilled an important public, cultural, social and economic function for the "Ostjuden" We are doing this as successors of those organizations.

In fact, the German Restitutions authorities have already recognized our rights to this, and three years ago we received approximately 700,000 German Marks. There are 2-3 other demands for damages which amount to some 2-3 million German marks.

Our representatives have been dealing with this matter for over two years, but there has been no conclusion in this matter. They are demanding a great number of documents, many of which we have already supplied - despite the fact that it is not simple to find them after so many years and after the war - but there seems to be no end to it. There is no decision in this matter.

Our legal adviser thinks that if a high ranking delegation *will go* to the Chancellor or to the Finance Minister, may be able to achieve that this matter should be positively and speedily concluded.

My - our appeal to you is that you should agree to participate in this delegation. According to our plan, there should be in this delegation, except yourself, , Lord Fisher from London, the Chief Rabbi - Deputy of France, Rabbi Nathan Staskala and I. *go if* Of course, this delegation has an aim, and should one of the above mentioned functionaries agree, to receive them, ~~this delegation should be prepared to meet with them.~~

I hope that this suggestion is not too much of trouble for you. We are anxious that this meeting should take place at the time of the meeting of the Governing Body of the World Congress in London or at the Conference in Brussels. At the same time, I am also appealing to Lord Fisher and to Rabbi Tchakqla.

Please forgive me for the length of this letter. I will not do it again - So I hope, - if I should have to write to you again.

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וועלט־פעדעראציע פון פוילישע יידן / הויפט־לייטונג  
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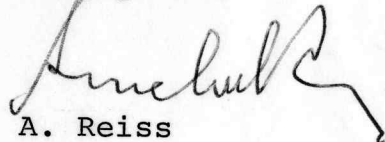
- 3 -

We shall be very grateful if you agree to our request, and thank you in advance for your cooperation.

We shall be very pleased to hear from you - and await your reply.

With very sincere greetings and good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

  
A. Reiss