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MEMORANDUM

From Rabbi Balfour Brickner
To Rabbi Alexander Schindler
Copies Betty Golomb
Subject Funds for UAHC Task Force on Soviet Jewry

Date 3/16/79

By now I have pursued the matter sufficiently with the CJFWF, NYANA and the New York Federation as well as through correspondence with Jim Rice and Bob Adler to know that funds from the 20 million dollar bloc grant are not and will not be available to the UAHC to help us fund the projects we have in the works or are contemplating through our Task Force. Church-State separation principles, which do not allow any of those federal funds to be given to a specific religious organization, preclude our getting any of that money. Congregations have to be advised how to work through existing federations in their communities and we are, together with Martin Greenberg of the Family Service Agencies, working on the preparation of Guidelines for our congregations re this.

All that will not help us get additional funds from outside to help us with our work. These will have to be raised privately or from some foundation source.

I am sorry that the information you had and the leads you gave me turned out to be either incorrect or blind alleys. Now, have you got any ideas?

If as and when you are ready, I'd be glad to go into the details on this. There is more to it. I hate to do it all in a memo. It takes too damn much time to write it all.

BB:mn

mtg.



January 31, 1979

Mr. Morris Brafman, President
The International League for
the Repatriation of Russian Jews
41 East 42nd Street
New York, New York 10017

Dear Mr. Brafman:

Please pardon the delay in responding to your letter of December 28. Rabbi Schindler has been out-of-the-country and is now on an extended tour of the West Coast in behalf of the UAHC. In order to avoid any further delay I am taking the liberty of responding to you directly.

The subject of your letter is one which falls within the purview of The National Conference on Soviet Jewry. Your request should be sent to that organization. The UAHC is represented on the National Conference and we work in close association with them.

With kindest greetings, I am

Sincerely,

Edith J. Miller
Assistant to
Alexander M. Schindler, President

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*The International League
for the
Repatriation of Russian Jews*

41 East 42nd Street
New York, New York 10017
(212) 682-7865



December 28, 1978

Union of American Hebrew Congregations
383 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10021

ATTENTION: RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER, PRESIDENT

RE: SOLUTION TO THE NOSCHRIM PROBLEM

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

Please find enclosed the position paper commissioned by us from the Harbor Foundation Research Bureau. We endorsed the findings of the Foundation and submitted the paper to Mr. Arye Leib Dulzin, Chairman of the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem, which assigns the highest priority to the question of Russian Noschrim, the numbers of which have increased greatly and are likely to rise even more steeply in 1979 and 1980.

We received a reply from our good friend, Mr. Yitshack Roger, General Counsel to the Executive of the Jewish Agency, who suggested that the status quo be maintained, and that the ideas embodied in the position paper be offered to American Jewish leaders only.

It was obvious once again that the Israelis will not accept the intellectual and managerial contributions which American Jewry is well qualified to offer but is concerned only that we pay the costs of their absorption policies that are responsible for the high proportion of Noschrim today.

We, on the other hand, feel that this serious problem is one to be addressed in all aspects by the entire World Jewish Community not exclusively by Israel. We suggest that a meeting by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry should be devoted to this subject in the near future, and look forward to receiving your reply.

Sincerely yours,

MORRIS BRAËFMAN
President

Harbor Foundation, Inc.

National Office

138-02 Rockaway Beach Blvd. Belle Harbor, N. Y. 11694 (212) 474-6305

Office of the President

Dr. Peter Kirsch
Director of Research

Position Papers:
Vol. 1 #1

SOVIET JEWRY: THE PROBLEM OF
NOSCHRIM (DROP-OUTS)

by Morris Brafman

The issue of the Noschrim has been the subject of much debate and considerable misinterpretation. From the outset, let it be stated unequivocally concerning the Noschrim that the Soviet Union has shown no interest whatsoever in the fate of those Jews who were granted exit visas. Moreover, contrary to popular expectations, the Soviet Union evidenced no disposition to slow the pace of emigration on the grounds that many Jews did not go to Israel but settled instead in the United States or in Western Europe. Internal disagreement among the Jews themselves, such as the dispute between Israel (which objected vehemently to their going to the United States instead of coming to Israel) and American Jewry (which insisted that they have the right to settle wherever they wish) in no way affected the exodus of Jews from the Soviet Union. Likewise the Belgrade Conference to review compliance with the provisions of the 'Human Rights of the Helsinki Final Act' did not change matters in the least - the Soviet Union didn't even raise the issue of the Noschrim; as many had feared.

I believe that the problem of Noschrim poses potentially the most serious threat to Israel, and to World Jewry. Every Soviet Jew who opts for the U.S.A. and for its material blandishments, also opts for the continuation of his life in the diaspora, where he is vulnerable to the bloodless holocaust of acculturation and assimilation -

not only he, but also his children and their children - if, indeed they will still choose to remain as Jews. With the Jewish People losing a million people every ten years to assimilation, we must come to grips with the magnitude of the problem. Surely Moses did not bring the Children of Israel out of bondage so that they would turn aside from their people when they were free? In Exodus we read that he asked Pharaoh in the name of the Holy One to "LET MY PEOPLE GO THAT THEY MAY SERVE ME." Their freedom was to be celebrated not by their assimilation but by their preservation as a unified Jewish People.

The heightened awareness of the problem of Noschrim by American Jewish leaders, teachers and rabbis has led to a marked increase in Jewish educational facilities throughout the United States for the families of Soviet 'refugees'. But this has not significantly affected the vast majority of immigrants who have shown little interest in communal activity. Attempts by Israeli officials in Vienna to stem the tide of Noschrim have been fruitless, since the Soviet Jew has decided whether to go to Israel or elsewhere long before he leaves Russia, and little can be done to influence him by the time he arrives in Austria. Thus the hemorrhage continues - and we do not need a physician to tell us that hemorrhage, if not controlled, leads to death.

While one can justly criticize Israel for being unprepared for the wave of Soviet Aliya in recent years, which led to many Olim reporting back to the Soviet Union in negative terms about their new life in Israel, in the last 18 months, a substantial improvement in Israeli attitudes is perceptible, and the Soviet Olim are being received more warmly than heretofore. While the present government of Israel seems to be more receptive to new ideas and suggestions for

improving the lot of the Soviet immigrants, a great deal remains to be done. Certain basic issues and problems still must be solved, the two most important being:

a) THE FIRST YEAR IN ISRAEL: Adjusting from life in a totalitarian and regimented society to integration in an open, free, competitive society where problems of housing, schools, social acceptance, language, the bureaucracy and ideological contrasts all make the settling-in process extremely difficult is a traumatic experience.

b) THE NEED FOR A JOB IN ONE'S IDENTICAL PROFESSION OR VOCATION:

While this may be difficult for a non-Russian to comprehend. It is an imperative for any Soviet immigrant. In the Soviet Union, a slave empire bereft of freedom, where ideology is dead and there are few if any outlets for human expression, a person's job becomes elevated from a mere occupation to a new religion. Within the confines of his workshop, office or laboratory, it gives the individual freedom. . . freedom to work, to produce, to create, to express himself, to communicate with his colleagues, and, to some extent, to compensate for the socio-political regimentation outside his place of work. This attachment to his occupation does not leave him when he crosses the Soviet border. On the contrary, it becomes reinforced, since it remains a symbol of security and freedom that will be even more imperative in his new life.

Let us examine the 120,000 immigrants from the Soviet Union who came to Israel between 1971 and 1978 and successfully integrated. In analyzing this group, we see that its members came from two specific regions in the Soviet Union, and from environments that greatly facilitated their adjustment to Israeli life. First were the Baltic Jews who grew up in a richly-Jewish and Zionistic environment. Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia were renowned as seats of Jewish learning.

Hebrew was spoken in every home, and children were raised in an environment of Yiddischkeit and traditional Judaism. The second major source of immigrants was far removed from the Baltic: Georgia, Bukhara and the Mountain regions, where Jews had lived since the Second Commonwealth. Throughout the centuries they had clung to their religious and national traditions with unparalleled, almost mystical fervor that could not be dampened or destroyed either by the Tsars or the K.G.B. When the modern State of Israel was created these proud Jews fought unrelentingly for their right to go to live there.

While 120,000 Soviet Jews came to Israel, some 39,000 who left the Soviet Union did not. Their only concern was to leave the Soviet Union and establish themselves in Western Europe or the United States where they would be able to realize their goals which were entirely materialistic and utterly devoid of Zionist (or occasionally even Jewish) content. In no way can we blame the rate of "drop-outs" on the Soviet Union or on its selection process - the Soviets are not interested in the fate of emigrants. Moreover, we have no data regarding the criteria used in selection. Thus, the problem to which we must address ourselves is how to minimize the immigration of Soviet Jews to countries outside Israel, and how to maximize the proportion of Soviet emigrants going to the Jewish State.

Two suggestions are offered in this paper. Both require the cooperation not only of Israel, but also of world Jewry which cannot and would not abrogate its responsibility for the safety and well-being of the Soviet Jews.

We suggest:

- a) Every Jewish family reaching Vienna from the Soviet Union should be given an outright grant of \$5,000.00 in the form of twelve monthly

checks which would be redeemable only by the recipient in Israel. This would represent a gift from World Jewry designed to help each family overcome the enormous difficulties of its first year in Israel and ease the problems of housing, education, language, absorption and social acceptance in the most practical manner possible, while leaving to the future the less pressing issues of ideology, culture and quality of life when the Soviet Olim would be settled in their new homes. These matters are indeed secondary for a family undergoing the trauma of adjustment to a new lifestyle.

b) Also in Vienna: the Government of Israel should provide every breadwinner with a letter guaranteeing that a job within his current career track will be made available to him within two weeks of his arrival in Israel. This would necessitate the Ministry of Labor and the Ministry of Finance developing a marketing strategy to persuade employers to employ Soviet Olim, recognizing that the first year is one of adjustment, and that the employer will be compensated by the Government for any difference between the worker's productivity and his salary.

These two proposals will, in our view, increase the number of Olim, both directly and indirectly. Jews still in the Soviet Union will receive a much more positive feedback in the form of letters from new Olim, who have "made it" persuading them to apply to the Ovir for exit visas. This, in turn, will increase the pressure on this branch of the Soviet bureaucracy to let out more Jews. The estimated cost of this program would be \$35 million, and would be borne by World Jewry.

Since Israel is vitally in need of immigration for its very survival, there is little doubt that the Government and the Knesset would be amenable to these proposals and would heartily endorse them.

In order to discuss these ideas, as well as the many changes in

the situation of Israel, Soviet Jews and Jews in the free world, it is suggested that a Third International Conference on Soviet Jewry be convened. Such a conference would address itself to these changes and to planning strategy and tactics for the future when the problems of the persecution of Soviet Jews, the security of Israel in a changing world, her social and economic problems and the fate of those Soviet Jews who did not go to Israel, will become increasingly exacerbated. The Camp David Accord may well give impetus to Aliya, and this too will require planning and preparation by Jews throughout the world.



838
8-5 June
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
383 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10021

ATTENTION: RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER, PRESIDENT

249. 0100

ADDRESSE
NEW YORK

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

January 23, 1979

Rabbi Balfour Brickner

Mrs. Betty Golomb; Alexander I. Ross, Albert Vorspan

SOVIET JEWRY TASK FORCE

Unfortunately, I wasn't at the SAC meeting and I haven't any idea what transpired there.'

In any event, that is pretty much irrelevant. What is relevant is solely the mandate with which the Task Force was charged and that is quite clear: to develop plans which will help our congregations affect the religious integration of Russian Jews who choose to emigrate to America. I didn't look up the exact wording but I remember the substance well since I was the maker of the motion. Moreover, when I met with Betty, both before and after the Board meeting, that is what we discussed.

It is my feeling, obviously contrary to yours, that we can't chisel away at those matters which are the responsibility of the SAC, to which we turn for guidance in regard to the Union's thinking in the religious actions realm and which have bearing not only on the stance of the Reform Jewish community toward the larger community but on all matters affecting the Jewish community as well.

If Alex Ross and/or Al Vorspan feel differently about this and want to surrender aspects of their work, I am willing to consider it. Why don't you discuss this with Al and Alex and when I have their views, I will consider revising my view if necessary.

In the meantime, I continue eagerly to await some guidance for our congregations emanating from your Task Force.

MEMORANDUM

From Rabbi Balfour Brickner
To Rabbi Alexander Schindler
Copies Betty Golomb & Al Vorspan
Subject Yours of Jan. 9th - Task Force on Soviet Jewry

Date Jan. 17, 1979
(dictated on Jan. 11th)

I too am sorry you won't be able to attend our Feb. 7th meeting of the Task Force. Of course, I will share the minutes with you and will keep you up to date.

Re items 4/ and 5/ on the agenda. These are not on the agenda "for informational purposes only."

It was not our impression that the mandate of the Task Force was only to cover matters dealing with the orientation to Reform Judaism of Russian Jewish emigres to this country, while matters of policy were to be left to the SAC.

As a matter of fact, I raised this very question at a meeting of the SAC some time last fall. (The minutes of that meeting were so edited or so written as to ignore that discussion but I have my own notes of that meeting and know what was discussed.) It was agreed that a sub committee of members from the SAC and the Task Force would meet to discuss this issue. I subsequently sent a memo to Alex Ross, chairman of the SAC indicating that Betty Golomb, chairperson of the Task Force had appointed members from our Task Force to that sub committee and that we were ready and eager to initiate the conversations. (See attached memo to Ross.) We never got an answer or a response. I spoke with Al about this and asked him to tell Alex we were awaiting a response. To this date -- nothing.

Beyond that, however, I believe it is a mistake to bifurcate between two UAHC bodies the concern, the efforts, the attention that the UAHC gives to the issue of Soviet Jewry. The SAC deals with the matter through a sub committee (they too call it a Task Force) which then reports its findings to the Commission. But, I dare say they do not have on that sub committee the kind of experts we have on our much larger Task Force. See the attached list of our membership which you asked for. Notice that we have on it people like Mike Rukin, Merv Riseman, chairman of that community's city wide Task Force on Soviet Jewry.

Mrs. Betty Golomb has unusual expertise and interest in this area and serves on local and national Soviet Jewry commissions. Why shouldn't a UAHC group with that kind of talent be capable of making policy recommendations as well as the SAC or any other committee or commission of the UAHC? Knowing as I do how much work the SAC has, how many issues they deal with, how far flung their interests, I would think that Al and David would welcome a reduction of their work load.

Secondly, remember that when Betty reported to the UAHC Board last fall, she didn't just report on matters relating to indoctrinating Russian Jews on Reform Judaism. Her report also dealt with substantial policy matters. (I have a copy of her written report if you would like to see confirmation of that.) At that time neither you nor Al nor any member of the Board objected to the fact



that she was also dealing with matters of substance nor do I recall their raising the issue of whether or not it was legitimate for the chairperson of the Task Force on Soviet Jewry to deal with these kinds of issues. As a matter of fact that was, I think, the first time the matter of the UAHC and Soviet Jewry was ever put before our Board in a substantive way. It confirms my point; that a group which deals with one issue solely and primarily can and will give it finer attention than one which treats the issue as one of a whole host of matters with which it also has to deal.

Finally, the reports we got back from the questionnaires we sent out indicate that our congregations don't have the kind of separate committees you would like us to set up here. They don't have one committee for Reform Jewish orientation of Soviet emigres in their community and another one to deal with policy matters re Soviet Jewry. They, to the degree that they have functioning committees at all, put it all into one committee. That makes sense.

In sum, we consider it a mistake to split the functions as you suggest. It will complicate, confuse and reduce the effectiveness of our movement's work. A Task Force on Soviet Jewry should deal with all issues related to the issue.

I am sorry you are away so that we have to discuss these matters via memos. It obviously isn't the best way. Perhaps when you are back, and can give us a little time, Betty and I can talk about this matter further with you and Al. In the meantime, we will be discussing items 4/ and 5/ on the agenda in a substantive and not just a "for information only" fashion. Naturally, we will share our recommendations with you and whoever else is appropriate.

Al and Alex Ross will be invited to the Feb. 7th meeting. As a matter of fact, I think they have been already.

BB:mn
attach.

Betty Golomb
64 Birch Street
Port Washington, NY 11050

Rabbi Balfour Brickner
175 E. 62 Street
New York, NY 10021

Mrs. Annette Daum
UAHC

Ralph Davis
UAHC

Mr. Al Vorspan
UAHC

Mrs. S. Donner
Cong. Sherith Israel
San Francisco, Calif.

Mr. Ben Chernov
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Mr. Lee Goldin
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Rabbi Erwin L. Herman
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N. Hollywood, Calif. 94103

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Central Synagogue of
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Rockville Centre, NY 11570

Mr. James Rice
Jewish Fed. of Met. Chicago
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Rabbi Charles Kroloff
Temple Emanu-El
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Westfield, N.J. 07090

Rabbi Steve Rubin
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Mr. Michael Rukin
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Temple Israel of Hollywood
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Los Angeles, Calif. 90046

Mrs. Jack Heeger
11373 Charnock Rd.
Los Angeles, Calif. 90066

Mr. Raymond Pl Gran
247 Kent Rd.
Warminster, Pa. 18974

MEMORANDUM

Date October 27, 1978

From Rabbi Balfour Brickner

To Alex Ross

Copy for information of Betty Golomb & Al Vorspan

Subject Soviet Jewry: Joint consultation

You will recall that as a result of the recent SAC meeting it was decided that the SAC's committee on Soviet Jewry and the UAHC's Task Force on Soviet Jewry would initiate a consultation process, especially on matters of policy and social import such as the Olympic Games situation, etc.

I am pleased to tell you that Betty Golomb, the chairperson of the Task Force now has such a sub committee. It is ready to meet with the SAC's sub committee as soon as possible. If you will tell me who your people are, I will be glad to put such a meeting together. If you want to do it, let me know and I will send you the names of our sub committee persons.

Look forward to the meeting. Let me know.

Thanks and regards.

BB:mn

Balfour

File - Soviet Jewry

January 23, 1976

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

Dear Stanely:

The enclosed envelope was addressed to the Chief Rabbi of the USA and while I am much impressed that the Washington Postal Department knew just who that was in forwarding the letter to me, I think its subject matter is of more concern to the NCSJ.

I don't know how fluent you are in Yiddish so I will tell you that the writer would like to locate his brother who moved to Boston in 1912. The brother who came to America was known as Sochel Isaac Aaronovich . I don't know how these requests are handled but I am sure you will see to it that an appropriate response is sent.

With every good wish and warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

P.S. I left word at your office, you were in Brussels, that I am eager to meet with you on your return. I hope we can set a mutually convenient time to meet.

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

January 9, 1979

Rabbi Balfour Brickner

Al Vorspan

In regard to your memo of December 29, I am really sorry that I won't be able to attend the meeting of the Task Force on Soviet Jewry. I'll be in Israel. I feel doubly bad about missing the meeting inasmuch as I gave the impetus toward the formation of the Task Force.

I read the agenda with a good deal of interest and hope you will send me a copy of the minutes so that I can be kept apprised of developments.

Items 4/ and 5/ on the agenda perplex me somewhat. As far as I am concerned, these matters are for the Social Action Commission. The Task Force, as I envisaged it, was to be concerned primarily with the Reform religious orientation of Russian Jews who have decided to come to the United States. If these items are on the agenda for informational purposes, fine. But the stance of the Union on such issues as the Olympic Games and other policies affecting the American Jewish community working with regard to Soviet Jewry should remain in the hands of the Commission on Social Action.

Please let me have a list of the Task Force members.

Warm regards.

MEMORANDUM

From Rabbi Balfour Brickner

Date Dec. 29, 1978

To Rabbis: Alexander Schindler, Stuart Gertman & Karen Fox
Mr. Al Vorspan

Copies Betty Golomb

Subject Attached - Soviet Jewry Task Force meeting February 7th, 1979

F.Y.I.

Stu - Karen - I particularly hope the date is clear in your calendar.
Very much want you to report on NYFRS activities.

BB:mn
attach.



Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021 (212) 249-0100



איחוד
ליהדות
מתקדמת
באמריקה

Union of American Hebrew Congregations

PATRON OF HEBREW UNION COLLEGE—JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION
838 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021 (212) 249-0100 CABLES: UNIONUAHC

DEPARTMENT OF INTERRELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

January 3, 1979

FROM: Betty Golomb, Chairperson of UAHC Task Force on Soviet Jewry

TO: Members of the Task Force

SUBJECT: Next Meeting of Task Force - Wednesday February 7, 1979
10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. (lunch will be served) at the UAHC

It is time for us to come together again. Much has happened. There is much to report and some decisions will have to be made.

The model Friday evening service is nearly ready. Other materials are being printed in Russian and we are actively supporting some work being done here in the New York region under the guidance of the NYFRS.

While a more complete agenda will be sent later, at least the following items will be considered:

1. Report on the model Friday Evening Service.
2. Translation into Russian of "Keeping Posted" issue on Reform Judaism and other informational material.
3. Results of our questionnaire.
4. The Olympic Games - our position.
Trade agreements.
Immigration - possible briefing from JDC official.
5. Jerry Goodman, Executive Director of The National Conference on Soviet Jewry will be with us and brief us.
6. Activities of The New York Federation of Reform Synagogues and other regional efforts.
7. Do we foster separate religion structures for Soviet Jews or seek to integrate them into our congregations.

We have chosen this date for our Task Force meeting since the National Conference on Soviet Jewry will be meeting in New York City on Monday & Tuesday Feb. 5-6th. We thought some of you coming from out of town might be interested also in attending those meetings.

A reply card is enclosed for your convenience.

I trust you had a Happy Chanuko and a joyful (secular) New Year.

Look forward to seeing you on Wed. February 7, 1979.

Balfour

BB:mn

enc. reply card

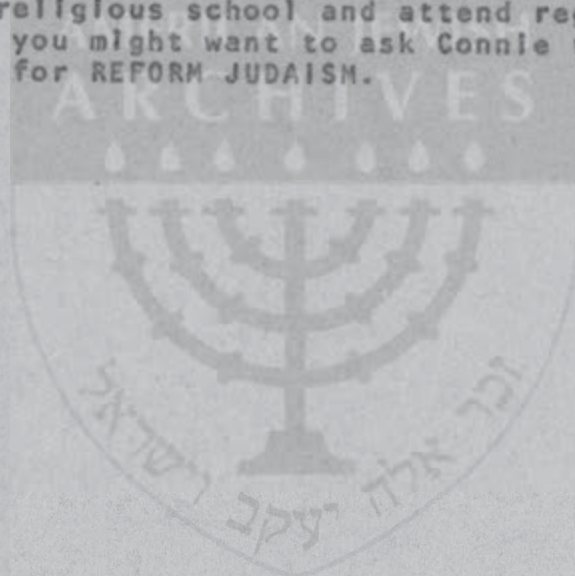
Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

November 7, 1998

Betty Golomb and Rabbi Balfour Brickner

Aron Hirt-Manheimer

Connie Kreshtool told me a fascinating success story involving a Russian Jewish family now integrated into Beth Emeth of Wilmington, Delaware. It all began years ago when the congregation "adopted" a family from Leningrad as a Pen Pal. Eventually, the family left Russia, went to Vienna and then came to the U.S. and members of Beth Emeth helped them settle in Wilmington, they even helped the father obtain a job at DuPont. For about a year the family chose to remain distant from the congregation but today they are fully integrated, the children have been consecrated as students in the religious school and attend regularly. It is a moving story and you might want to ask Connie to write it up for your round-up or for REFORM JUDAISM.



November 6, 1978

Mr. James P. Rice
Jewish Federation
One South Franklin Street
Chicago, Ill. 60606

Dear Jim:

It was good chatting with you. I appreciate your note of October 31 in regard to the Federation program for Soviet Jewish children and their families. I have shared the JTA item with Betty Golomb, Chairperson of our Task Force, and Balfour Brickner, staff consultant. They will be in contact with you.

I thought you would be interested in the enclosed item which will appear in a forthcoming addition of our newspaper, REFORM JUDAISM. Boris Gorokhov is a young Russian emigre who has attended our Camp Harlam in Pennsylvania for the past two summers.

With warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

Encl.



Jewish Federation

of Metropolitan Chicago

One South Franklin Street • Chicago, Ill. 60606 • Telephone, Financial 6-6700

79th YEAR

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October 31, 1978

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MARVIN S. CHAPMAN, *Legal Counsel*

Rabbi Alex Schindler
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10021

Dear Alex,

Thanks for your telephone call about the National Commission on Russian Jewry. I was very interested to know about the efforts of our Reform movement to help Soviet Jewish kids integrate into the religious community.

In this connection, I am enclosing a copy of the JTA story about the special program supported by our Federation enabling Soviet Jewish youngsters to attend afternoon school.

I look forward to receiving from you the translations of some of the liturgical material that your staff has prepared.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

James P. Rice

JPR:FGH

cc: Robert L. Adler

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JTA community news reporter

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Subscription: \$18.00 per year. Published every Friday.

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency / 165 West 46th Street / New York, New York 10036

Vol. XVII

October 27, 1978

No. 39

CHICAGO FEDERATION STARTS EDUCATION PLAN FOR SOVIET TOTS

CHICAGO (JTA)--A new program of Jewish education has been initiated in Chicago this fall for recently arrived Soviet Jewish families whose children attend public schools. The 36-week program was started by the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago, in cooperation with four of its affiliates and beneficiary agencies.

The program started Sept. 21 with ten pupils, aged eight to ten, participating in five sessions a week at an area congregation and at a nearby Jewish community center, according to David Smerling, Federation president. He lauded the program as completing a comprehensive Jewish educational system set up and funded by the Federation for Soviet Jews resettling here.

Richard Dublin, program coordinator with the Jewish Family and Community Service, said he expected attendance to increase to more than 50 children, as new Soviet families arrive here at a rate of about 25 a month.

The program blends formal classroom instruction with leisure-time social and cultural activities. In the five-day-a-week program, the children receive six hours of classroom instruction at Congregation B'nai Zion, two hours each Sunday morning and two afternoons a week. Two hours of music, arts and crafts, dance and drama are provided on each of the two weekday afternoons at the Rogers Park Jewish Community Center.

The classroom curriculum--especially established by the Associated Talmud Torahs and the Board of Jewish Education--includes Hebrew, Bible studies, Jewish history, Jewish laws and culture.

The supervising classroom teacher and the Jewish center counselor work together to assure that the activities reinforce the classroom studies,

especially in relation to holiday celebrations. Some of the activities will be conducted with other Jewish center groups and area Sunday school classes to help the Soviet youngsters make new friends.

Pupils are bussed to and from class and activities sessions. The JFCS, which has overall responsibility for resettlement aid to Soviet Jewish families, coordinates the program with the education agencies. Parental education, an important phase of the program, will be conducted by the JFCS through group meetings, co-led by the supervising classroom teacher, and through special family events centered around the Jewish holidays.

The program, called "Mehina," Hebrew for "preparation," is structured so that the children will be able to continue their Jewish studies at area congregational schools as soon as they are ready, said Jules Cogan, JFCS president. An advisory committee of rabbis and school principals, parents and community leaders, is planned to assure smooth transition to congregational schools, Cogan said.

He said most participants will be families in their first year of resettlement whose children do not attend Federation-supported day schools. Two classes are planned for this fall, one for children eight to ten, and the second for children 11 to 13. Class size will be limited to 25. Volunteer classroom aides will be used to provide individualized help and tutoring, Cogan said.

Other Federation-supported educational programs for youngsters of the Soviet newcomers include: nursery schools; Jewish day schools; tutorial help to prepare children for day school enrollment; scholarships to congregational schools; and day care, day camp and summer camp. Some 250 Russian Jewish children are enrolled in these programs.

Last year, 697 Soviet Jews, about 230 families, resettled in Chicago. This year, more than 100 Soviet Jews are arriving each month. Since 1975, nearly 2000 Soviet Jewish refugees have resettled here.

This year, the Federation has earmarked about

\$150,000 for the education of recently arrived Soviet Jews in addition to its \$2.4 million allocation for formal Jewish education, described as the largest amount spent for such education by any Jewish community in the United States.

label for November

Russian Youth Finds Home at Camp Harb

5665—UAHC peg 9/20/78 9/10 Mel x
13 Gal 24

It was very difficult for me to leave Russia. I lived in a comfortable two-bedroom apartment which, by Russian standards, was probably upper middle-class. I went to a special English school for four years, ever since first grade, and I had many close friends. I felt comfortable and secure, so it was very hard to understand why my parents were taking me away from it all.

At eleven, I could not comprehend the fact that being a Jew meant that I had very few opportunities to make it in Russia. Although I did not say anything to my parents, deep inside I was very upset about leaving behind all my friends, my whole life. When we got to America I felt even worse for it was such a different way of life.

Classmates Cruel

My first year here was spent mainly trying to learn English fluently. When we came to America, we settled in New York, but after a year we moved to Virginia where I had to start making new friends again. I discovered at school that there were a lot of things about America I did not know. I was hard for me to prove myself in sports for in America they played football and softball while in Russia they played soccer and hockey. My classmates did not understand my background and treated me very cruelly whenever I did or said something naive. They did not have much respect for me, an attitude that hurt me very much. In Russia, I had many close friends.

Also, I did not know much about Judaism. I had always considered the Jewish people to be a nationality rather than a religious group. That is what they are in Russia. I never had any Jewish education and knew little of Jewish history. Although I was without a Jewish education and all my friends in Russia were not Jews, I still felt internal strength and pride as a Jew.

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Apprehensive about Camp

My bad experiences in America, combined with my ignorance of Judaism, made me very apprehensive about going to a Jewish camp. However, when I got to Camp Harlam, I was very surprised to find the kids so friendly. They were very interested in my background and asked me thousands of questions. They were very patient and helped me adjust to the American way of life. I became more secure in myself and for the first time since leaving Russia I began to have real friends.

Bar Mitzvah at Harlam

Q Y I also began to understand my Jewish background. Through the shiur program I began to learn the history and religion of the Jews. My counselor, who fought in the Yom Kippur War, told me about his war experiences and I began to feel the might and the pride of my Jewish identity. He suggested that I have a Bar Mitzvah at camp. I learned my Torah portion in ten days. I'll never forget that sunny Saturday morning when my bunkmates performed the service and I nervously read my Torah portion as 300 pairs of eyes watched me intently. I did not realize the full importance of the ceremony until I was much older.

Probably the most important thing that camp taught me was how to relate to people through learning. I learned a lot about myself and became more sure of myself. I met Rabbi Laslo Berkowitz who invited me to join his congregation back home. I joined the temple, went to Sunday school, and got involved in the temple youth group. Participating in all the activities, I made many new friends.

Most Important Possessions

I stay in close contact with my camp friends. They are the most important possessions I have.

I have come a long way from the scared little Jewish Russian boy that knew so little about America and Judaism. And, although I am as American as any kid who is a Yankee fan, I do not forget from where I came and how lucky I am. If it were not for those people who fought for me and who gave me a chance to adjust, I would probably have had a very different fate. My only wish is that all Soviet Jews be as lucky as I was and that they not be forgotten.

This article is based on a speech by Boris Gorokhov, 15, to the UAHC Executive Committee.

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

October 31, 1978

Mrs. Betty Golomb; Rabbi Balfour Brickner

Mr. Robert L. Adler; Rabbi Charles J. Kroloff

I attended the HUC-JIR Board meeting today and in my report for the Union I broached the subject of Russian Jewry and the need to integrate them into our congregational life. I described some of the work of your Task Force. Immediately after the meeting, three people approached me with ideas which may be of interest.

1/ Chuck Kroloff informed me that a member of his congregation, Ms. Blanche Ross, 1016 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. - BU 8-3434, is very much concerned about the religious integration issue. She knows a great deal about the subject and should be invited to work with the Task Force. She is currently the President of NYANA and is a past-Chairwoman of the New York UJA Women's Division (she's also Chuck's cousin). In other words, she's a natural for the work and ought to be approached to serve on the Task Force.

2/ A College-Institute Board member from Denver - his name has slipped my memory at the moment but no matter - told me his congregation in Denver offers free membership to Russian Jews and scholarships for kids to Camp Schwayder.

I think it would be well in this connection if the Task Force were very soon to come forward with an action memorandum to our congregations, urging them to do similar things. You should also include other ideas which have come to your attention. Tell them also how they can get the addresses of Russian Jews living in their areas. The goal here clearly is to gain the religious integration of these people through involvement in Reform congregations.

3/ Bob Adler told me that the CJFWF has substantial sums available for Russian Jews and that a portion of this multi-million dollar budget has been assigned for "religious education purposes." Jim Rice, the Director of the Chicago Federation, is a member of the CJFWF Task Force. He's also an active member of one of our Chicago congregations. Jim is a highly intelligent person, as you know, I spoke to him and apprised him of the existence of our Task Force. You, too, might want to call him either before or after the General Assembly of the CJFWF.

Edith J. Miller

September 18, 1978

Joshua M. Dwork

Rabbi Balfour Brickner

Enclosed is Manny Rosenthal's check for \$400. for the Task Force on Soviet Jewry of the UAHC. This gift was made by Manny in order to make possible a special English teaching program in Brooklyn under the auspices of the Task Force.



Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

August 15, 1978

Rabbi Balfour Brickner

Theodore K. Broido and Albert Vorspan

RUSSIAN JEWRY

As I told you, and this is also by way of informing Al and Ted, I would like Betty Golumb to prepare a full report on the Soviet Jewry Task Force. What I would like is something comprehensive which will focus essentially on three elements:

1/ Descriptive: What the problem is. The need for efforts on the part of the Jewish community to help integrate Russian Jews Jewishly here. What others are doing.

2/ What are Reform congregations doing now and what the Union is doing now (translations, etc).

3/ A projection of an ideal program for our congregations, regions and national body.

I understand from Ted that our Executive Committee agenda is rather skimpy. Could this report possibly be ready for September 18?

Also, please be sure to call Arie Gluck, if you have not already done so, about the young man I told you about who is working at our camp and whose parents came here from Russia three years ago. I do not know whether his parents are in any way integrated within a Reform congregation but it would be good to liven up the report with some expression of a personal account. As I told you, the young man is quite articulate.



איחוד
ליהדות
מתקדמת
באמריקה

Union of American Hebrew Congregations

PATRON OF HEBREW UNION COLLEGE—JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION
838 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021 (212) 249-0100 CABLES: UNIONUAHC

going out 9/1

DATE: September 1978

FROM: Betty Golomb, Chairperson, The Task Force on
Soviet Jewry of the UAHC

TO: Rabbis, Congregational Presidents, Social Action
Chairpersons

SUBJECT: Questionnaire for Congregations on Soviet Jewish
Emigres in the United States

The Task Force on Soviet Jewry, recently appointed by the UAHC Board of Trustees, has as one of its prime responsibilities the development of programs for the absorption of Soviet Jews in our religious community.

In order to ascertain what has already been undertaken by your congregation, what problems you have encountered and how we can assist you, we have designed the enclosed questionnaire. Please answer those questions that pertain to your local synagogue program. Where you have undertaken means of integrating new emigres other than those we have covered, please add your own description and evaluation of the projects.

We hope that you will be able to answer no later than October 30th.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me for clarification.

enc.

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CONGREGATIONS

THE TASK FORCE ON SOVIET JEWRY
OF THE UAHC
BETTY GOLOMB, CHAIRPERSON

I

1. How many Soviet Jews have settled in your community in the past seven years? Give an approximate figure _____

With how many have you had contact? _____

2. Has your synagogue programmed for or offered any services to aid in the absorption of these newcomers? Yes _____ No _____

If your answer is "Yes" check, where applicable, the kinds of programs or services you have been able to provide:

- _____ Welcoming newcomers on arrival in the community
- _____ Visiting newcomers to assist them in learning about the community
- _____ Providing transportation
- _____ Sponsoring English language training programs
- _____ Setting up baby-sitting facilities
- _____ Invitations to Sabbath services
- _____ Invitations to holiday services
- _____ Invitations to Holy Day services
- _____ Social evenings at the synagogue to meet members of the congregation and/or other emigres
- _____ Invite teenagers to participate in youth activities
- _____ Accept children in the religious school
- _____ Offer scholarships to camp programs of the Reform Jewish Movement
- _____ Offer temple membership
- How many have remained as members? _____
- _____ Other functions: _____
- _____ Do you offer courses to them in Reform Judaism? _____
- _____ If so, what kind of materials are useful to you? _____
- _____

3. What has been the response to these efforts? _____

4. If your answer to question #2 is "No," describe briefly the reasons:

5. Has the synagogue budgeted any funds or assumed any financial role for Soviet Jewry? If so, describe _____

II

1. Is your congregation represented on your Jewish community's local coordinating committee, responsible for resettlement of the Soviet Jews in your community? Yes _____ No _____

2. Check appropriately (✓):

	Responsibility fully assumed by congregation	Responsibility shared with other local groups
Housing procurement	_____	_____
House furnishing	_____	_____
Job procurement	_____	_____
English language teaching	_____	_____

If your synagogue is not involved in the over-all resettlement programs, have you developed other activities to help emigrees in community adjustment? Explain.

III

1. How has the synagogue obtained the names of or made its contacts with Russian Jews in the community? _____

2. What questions do Russian Jews ask you about Reform Judaism?

3. What can/should this Task Force do to help you in your efforts in behalf of Soviet Jewry? _____

4. Name and address of congregation's Soviet Jewry Committee Chairperson:
Name _____ Phone No. _____
Address _____
Congregation _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Thank you for your cooperation.

Please return to: Betty Golomb, Chairperson
UAHC Soviet Jewry Task Force
838 Fifth Avenue - Room 701
New York, New York 10021
(212) 249-0100, Ext. 280

MEMORANDUM

From Rabbi Balfour Brickner
To Ted Broido
Copies Rabbi Alexander Schindler, Al Vorspan & Betty Golomb
Subject UAHC Executive Board Meeting September 18th - Betty Golomb

Date Sept. 6, 1978

Betty is prepared to make her presentation re our Soviet Jewry Task Force on September 18th.

What time? Please let her know. Her phone numbers are:
(516) 944-8730
(212) 879-6881

Also, let me know!

Alex: I've checked with Arie Gluck re Soviet Jewish young person. He's lost track of him temporarily but is trying to run him down. If he can, he'll get back to me. We will work him in if it is possible. I'll have to clear that further with Betty.

BB:mn

P.S. We will want to distribute copies of the attached questionnaire to all members of the Executive Board. We have enough copies in our office. Do you want them in the kits?



איחוד
ליהדות
אמריקה

Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021 (212) 249-0100

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CONGREGATIONS

THE TASK FORCE ON SOVIET JEWRY
OF THE UAHC
BETTY GOLOMB, CHAIRPERSON

I

1. How many Soviet Jews have settled in your community in the past seven years? Give an approximate figure _____

With how many have you had contact? _____

2. Has your synagogue programmed for or offered any services to aid in the absorption of these newcomers? Yes _____ No _____

If your answer is "Yes" check, where applicable, the kinds of programs or services you have been able to provide:

- _____ Welcoming newcomers on arrival in the community
- _____ Visiting newcomers to assist them in learning about the community
- _____ Providing transportation
- _____ Sponsoring English language training programs
- _____ Setting up baby-sitting facilities
- _____ Invitations to Sabbath services
- _____ Invitations to holiday services
- _____ Invitations to Holy Day services
- _____ Social evenings at the synagogue to meet members of the congregation and/or other emigres
- _____ Invite teenagers to participate in youth activities
- _____ Accept children in the religious school
- _____ Offer scholarships to camp programs of the Reform Jewish Movement
- _____ Offer temple membership
- _____ How many have remained as members? _____
- _____ Other functions: _____
- _____ Do you offer courses to them in Reform Judaism? _____
- _____ If so, what kind of materials are useful to you? _____
- _____

3. What has been the response to these efforts? _____

4. If your answer to question #2 is "No," describe briefly the reasons:

5. Has the synagogue budgeted any funds or assumed any financial role for Soviet Jewry? If so, describe _____

II

1. Is your congregation represented on your Jewish community's local coordinating committee, responsible for resettlement of the Soviet Jews in your community? Yes _____ No _____

2. Check appropriately (✓):

	Responsibility fully assumed by congregation	Responsibility shared with other local groups
Housing procurement	_____	_____
House furnishing	_____	_____
Job procurement	_____	_____
English language teaching	_____	_____

If your synagogue is not involved in the over-all resettlement programs, have you developed other activities to help emigrees in community adjustment? Explain.

III

1. How has the synagogue obtained the names of or made its contacts with Russian Jews in the community? _____

2. What questions do Russian Jews ask you about Reform Judaism?

3. What can/should this Task Force do to help you in your efforts in behalf of Soviet Jewry? _____

4. Name and address of congregation's Soviet Jewry Committee Chairperson:
Name _____ Phone No. _____
Address _____
Congregation _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Thank you for your cooperation.

Please return to: Betty Golomb, Chairperson
UAHC Soviet Jewry Task Force
838 Fifth Avenue - Room 701
New York, New York 10021
(212) 249-0100, Ext. 280

Edith J. Miller

9/18/78

Joshua M. Dwork

Please issue a check in the amount of \$82.00 to Boris Gorokhov,
651 Truman Lane, Falls Church, VA.

He is the young Russian Jewish lad who addressed the Executive
Committee meeting, as part of the report on the Task Force on
Russian Jewry. This reimbursement is to be charged to the meet-
ing and not to the Task Force.



September 19, 1978

Mr. E. M. Rosenthal
3709 East First Street
Fort Worth, Texas 76111

Dear Manny:

Your beautiful response to the report of the Task Force on Russian Jewry was deeply appreciated. You are a continuing source of support in so many ways and we are very grateful to you.

Thanks, too, for your fine report for the Biennial Program Committee. It was succinct and informational and we all look forward to a marvelous convention in Toronto.

It is my fond hope that the convention program will include a meaningful presentation on Russian Jewry. This is a most critical aspect of our work and it is my fond hope that it will become a truly high priority on the agendas of our member congregations. By highlighting the work of the Task Force at the Biennial we can help our congregations in their efforts in this area of Jewish life.

Rhea joins me in sending fondest regards to you and Roz and our best wishes for the New Year.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

September 19, 1978

Mr. Boris Gorokhov
651 Truman Lane
Salls Church, VA.

Dear Boris:

IT was a joy to see you again and a very special privilege to have you address the Executive Committee of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. Our people were moved by your words. It meant much to us all to have you share your thoughts with us.

Under separate cover a check will be sent to you within a few days to cover your airfare to and from New York.

I hope you are well settled in school and that the year ahead will be a happy and fulfilling one for you. My best to you and your family for a healthy and happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

September 19, 1978

Mrs. Dan Golomb
64 Birch Street
Port Washington, N.Y. 11050

Dear Betty:

Thank you for taking the time to report to our Executive Committee on the work of the Task Force on Russian Jewry. You were wonderful and I think you sensed the great impact your report had on our members. We are grateful for all that you do!

Boris touched us all. I shall write to him to express my appreciation and he will, of course, be reimbursed for his travel expenses. It was a beautiful presentation and I thank you for making the necessary arrangements to have him with us.

With fondest regards to you and Dan and best wishes for the New Year, in which Rhea joins, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

12/21/77

Rabbi Balfour Brickner

Thanks for the proposed budget for the Soviet Jewry Project. This should now be written up for the Memorial Foundation, with detailed information on the project and possibly copies of some of the booklets to be translated, for formal transmittal.

Perhaps it would be well for you to discuss the project with Sherman or Hochbaum before sending in the proposal and you might also check to determine the deadline for requesting a grant. I have a feeling you might have to get the proposal to them by January 1, 1978. Double check.



MEMORANDUM

Date Dec. 20, 1977

From Rabbi Balfour Brickner

To Rabbi Alexander Schindler

Copy for information of Betty Golomb & Al Vorspan

Subject Budget for UAHC Presidential Task Force on Soviet Jewry

When the Memorial Foundation meets you can submit the following budgetary request:

Stage 1

- | | | |
|---|-----------|----------|
| 1. Preparations and publication of booklet (in Russian) of daily prayers, holiday and home celebrations | | |
| <u>5,000 booklets / 30 pages</u> | | \$4,000 |
| translation | 500 | |
| clerical | 1,500 | |
| printing and publication | 2,000 | |
| 2. Printing and publication of sabbath service | | |
| <u>5,000 booklets / 30 pages</u> | | \$4,600 |
| translation | 600 | |
| (special knowledge of Russian and biblical Hebrew required) | | |
| clerical | 1,500 | |
| printing and publication | 2,500 | |
| 3. Printing and publication of High Holy Day Service | | \$6,000 |
| 5,000 copies - cloth bound/50 pages | | |
| translation | 500 | |
| clerical | 2,000 | |
| printing and publication | 3,500 | |
| 4. Overall administrative costs | | \$1,500 |
| phone, cost of office space, xerox, etc | | |
| 5. Mailing and distribution of material | | \$2,500 |
| | TOTAL---- | \$18,600 |

cc's of bk
for 1/11

Balf

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

December 15, 1977

Rabbi Balfour Brickner

Albert Vorspan

SOVIET JEWRY PROJECT

Please don't forget to give me a prospectus and budget for our Soviet Jewry Absorption project. I don't want us to miss the opportunity to present our request to the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture.



Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

October 14, 1977

Rabbi Balfour Brickner

Al Vorspan

SOVIET JEWRY TASK FORCE

Alas, we do not have funds budgeted for the Soviet Jewry Task Force but I am confident it will be possible for us to gain funds from outside sources.

The Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture should be approached for a grant to aid us in the translation of materials from English to Russian. Before you write up a proposal, I would suggest you discuss the matter with Dr. Jerry Hochbaum or Dr. Joshua Sherman of the Memorial Foundation.....679-4074.

Let me also note that in making a written request, you double or quadruple the sum of money required for actual costs since they usually grant less than the requested amount. (25%)



Al - Betty has New York phone 212-879-6881

June 16, 1977

Mrs. David Golomb
64 Birch Street
Port Washington, N.Y. 11050

Dear Betty:

At this past week-end's Board of Trustees meeting I asked for approval for the formation of a Task Force on Soviet Jewry and am pleased to advise that the Board was most positive in its reaction. My request was given unanimous approval.

At my request, Matt Ross will be inviting you to chair this Task Force. I know you will do a splendid job and I am very grateful to you for your earnest desire to render service in this most important area.

Regretfully, my travel schedule will have me leaving the country almost immediately after my return from the CCAR Conference, and I shall only attend that meeting for a day or two. Thus, I am asking Al Vorspan to meet with you in order to discuss the make-up of the Task Force membership as well as the thrust of its work. Ted Broido may also have some suggestions in regard to membership and I am asking him to share them with Al. When I return to the office late this summer I will plan on meeting with you to further discuss the program.

With gratitude and warmest regards from house to house, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

cc: Albert Vorspan
Theodore K. Broido



BALTIMORE HEBREW COLLEGE

5800 PARK HEIGHTS AVENUE

BALTIMORE, MD. 21215

Center for the Study of
Soviet Jewish Emigration
and Resettlement

301-466-7900

May 12, 1977

Betty Glomb
not done
to be done
recomm

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

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

I have enclosed a complimentary copy of The Soviet Jewish Emigre, which contains the proceedings of a national conference held at the Baltimore Hebrew College last December, and which was devoted to an interchange between academic specialists on the Soviet Union and Jewish community professionals involved in the resettlement of Soviet Jewish immigrants.

This is a publication of our Center for the Study of Soviet Jewish Emigration and Resettlement, which is devoted to research and dissemination of information to resettlement professionals and all others interested and involved in the integration of Soviet Jewish emigres into the American Jewish community. We hope that the enclosed volume will prove interesting and useful to you and your organization. Additional copies can be obtained from the Baltimore Hebrew College at \$4.00 per copy.

Sincerely yours,

Jerome M. Gilison
Jerome M. Gilison
Director

JMG/bbm

Enclosure

National Conference on Soviet Jewry

June 10, 1976

Rabbi Alex Schindler, President
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10021

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

This will acknowledge receipt of \$1,500 in dues
to the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, for
the year 1976.

Our thanks for your cooperation and concern.

Sincerely,



Jerry Goodman
Executive Director

JG:dh

Members:

EDWARD ALBEE
Playwright
ROGER BALDWIN
Founder, American Civil Liberties Union
CLIVE BARNES
Drama and dance critic
PATRICIA BARNES
Dance critic
SAUL BELLOW
Author, Nobel prize winner
ROBERT BERNSTEIN
President, Random House Publishers
SOL CHAIKIN
Vice President, AFL-CIO
RAMSEY CLARK
Former Attorney General of the United States
SISTER DOROTHY DONNELLY
Past President, American Coalition of Nuns
CONGRESSMAN MILLICENT FENWICK
CONGRESSMAN JAMES J. FLORIO
SENIOR RABBI JOSHUA HABERMAN
Washington Hebrew Congregation
MICHAEL HARRINGTON
Author
FATHER THEODORE HESBURGH
President, Notre Dame University
TOWNSEND HOOPES
President, American Publishers' Association
IRVING HOWE
Author
RICHARD HOWARD
President, American Pen Club
SENATOR HENRY M. JACKSON
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Playwright
SENATOR PATRICK MOYNIHAN
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Theatre director & producer
REV. DAVID A. REDDING
Author
BAYARD RUSTIN
President, A. Randolph Institute
HARRISON SALISBURY
Author
RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER
President, Union of American
Hebrew Congregations
ALBERT SHANKER
President, American Federation of Teachers
JEROME J. SHESTACK
President, International League
for Human Rights
PAUL H. SHERRY
Publisher, Pilgrim Press
CONGRESSMAN PAUL SIMON
ALEXANDER SOLZHENITSYN
Author, Nobel prize winner
NATALIA SOLZHENITSYN
President, Russian Social Fund
HOWARD E. SPRAGG
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ROGER W. STRAUS JR.
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Publishing House
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WILLIAM STYRON
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National Interreligious Affairs
TELFORD TAYLOR
Harvard Law School
KURT VONNEGUT
Author
EDWARD BENNETT WILLIAMS
Attorney
SIMON WIESENTHAL
Chairman, Jewish Documentation Center
LUDMILLA THORNE
Executive Secretary

ALEXANDER GINZBURG DEFENSE COMMITTEE

P.O. Box 3343
Grand Central Station
New York, N.Y. 10017
USA
Tel: (212) 826-6477

March 15, 1978

Dear Member of the Committee:

I am writing first to thank you for joining the Alexander Ginzburg Defense Committee. A comparable committee has just been established in England, and we hope soon to co-ordinate our efforts.

Secondly, I am writing to tell you that we plan to run a half page ad in The Washington Post on Tuesday, March 21, 1978. The text of the ad is enclosed.

If you do not wish to have your name appear at the bottom of this ad as a member of the Committee, I would be grateful if you would please call me as soon as you can at (202) 331-5036. If you have objections, I must hear from you by Saturday, March 18, 1978.

I do apologize for the rush.

Thank you again for your support in this important effort.

Best wishes,

Gregory B. Craig
Gregory B. Craig

Williams & Connolly
1000 Hill Building
Washington, D.C. 20006

*No objection
title
for ident
only
OK
Called
3/20/78*

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Text of Half Page Ad
The Washington Post
Tuesday, March 21, 1978

Mercy is about to be put on trial.

Alexander Ginzburg is a child of today's Gulag Archipelago.

He has already served seven years in Soviet forced labor camps, and now, the threat of another, even lengthier sentence looms over him. On February 3, 1977, he was arrested for the third time. Since then, he has been held incommunicado in Kaluga Prison.

Why was Alexander Ginzburg arrested?

- because he acted as administrator for the Russian Social Fund, founded by Alexander Solzhenitsyn to help political prisoners confined for their beliefs in Soviet camps, jails and psychiatric hospitals and to aid their suffering families;
- because, as a member of the Moscow Helsinki Watch Group, he denounced the Soviet government's non-compliance with the Helsinki Accords.

"The case of Alexander Ginzburg may prove to the world that Stalinism is not dead in the Soviet Union. The Soviet authorities are engaged in a massive campaign to invent, fabricate and manufacture evidence against Alexander Ginzburg."

Statement of Ginzburg's Attorney at the
International Sakharov Hearings in Rome

If Alexander Ginzburg is brought to trial, it will mean that

- it is a crime in the Soviet Union to dispense mercy;
- it is a crime in the Soviet Union to say the truth about violations of law and international agreements.

Our attention remains focused on Alexander Ginzburg's case. That is why we have formed the Alexander Ginzburg Defense Committee. (Affiliations are for identification purposes only)

Members of the Committee

Help free Alexander Ginzburg. For more information, please write or call:

Alexander Ginzburg Defense Committee
P.O. Box 3343
Grand Central Station
New York, New York 10017

(212) 826-6477

secret
Heavy

March 13, 1978

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

Dear Rabbi Schindler,

I wish to thank you very much for joining us in the Committee on behalf of Alexander Ginzburg, an outstanding human being whose acts of mercy have led to his third arrest, over a year ago, and who has been in jail ever since.

Prior to his confinement he was a member of the Moscow Helsinki Watch Group and he was the executor of the Russian Social Fund which has been providing aid to Soviet prisoners of conscience and their suffering families. It was through Alexander Ginzburg that help was dispensed to hundreds of needy children, wives and mothers.

He has already served seven years in concentration camps and those years have left their mark on his health. We fear that Alexander Ginzburg will not survive another term of imprisonment. We also feel very strongly that it is important to affirm that the right to exercise mercy is a basic human right which should be defended everywhere.

We are enclosing some documentation recently received from the Soviet Union concerning Ginzburg's appalling case. We do hope that you will find the time to read this evidence and that you will be able to remind public opinion of what is happening to him. This will mean real help not only for Ginzburg himself, but for all the thousands of prisoners' suffering families who need our Fund's aid.

I thank you once again for joining us in our efforts.

Very sincerely



Natalia Solzhenitsyn
President, Russian Social
Fund for Persecuted Persons
and Their Families.

The Washington Post

Classified 223-6200
Circulation 223-6100

Phone (202) 223-6000

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 1977

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ALEXANDER I. GINZBURG
... imprisoned by KGB



EDWARD BENNETT WILLIAMS
... retained by Solzhenitsyn

Williams to Defend Dissident Ginzburg

By Robert G. Kaiser
Washington Post Staff Writer

Alexander I. Solzhenitsyn has retained Edward Bennett Williams, the Washington trial lawyer, to help defend a recently imprisoned dissident in the Soviet Union, Williams and Solzhenitsyn revealed yesterday.

The man Williams will try to assist is Alexander I. Ginzburg, 40, whom the KGB arrested on Feb. 4. Ginzburg is a close friend of Solzhenitsyn and his wife, Natalia.

Shortly before his arrest Ginzburg announced publicly that he had distributed more than \$360,000 contributed by Solzhenitsyn to the families of political prisoners in the U.S.S.R.

Williams said yesterday he did not know what he would be able to do on Ginzburg's behalf. "It's a brand new idea," he said, describing the prospect of an American lawyer representing a Soviet dissident in a Soviet criminal case.

"It's perfectly clear that they [the Soviet authorities] are not going to let me participate in a

trial," he said. But he said the human rights clauses of the European security agreement signed in Helsinki in 1975 might provide some basis for legal action. Williams said he would apply for a visa to go to the Soviet Union and see his new client "at the appropriate time."

The Carter administration's willingness to speak out on human rights issues apparently influenced Solzhenitsyn's decision to hire Williams to defend Ginzburg. Williams said Solzhenitsyn "believes the President" when Carter speaks out for human rights "across the world and behind the Iron Curtain."

As part of the new posture on human rights questions, the Carter administration has already spoken out on Ginzburg's behalf. Three days after his arrest the State Department expressed "profound concern" for him. A department spokesman said Ginzburg "seems to have been singled out for especially harsh treatment."

See GINZBURG, A6, Col. 1

The Washington Post

Classified 223-6200
Circulation 223-6100

Phone (202) 223-6000

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 1977

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Williams Retained to Defend Soviet Dissident Ginzburg

GINZBURG, From A1

Williams spent the day Saturday with Solzhenitsyn in Cavenish, Vt., where the Nobel Prize-winning author now lives. Solzhenitsyn told him he feared Ginzburg could not survive if he is imprisoned again.

Ginzburg has twice served prison sentences in the past, and suffers from ulcers. He had pneumonia at the time of his arrest in a phone booth outside his apartment near Moscow, according to friends there.

Reports from Moscow over the weekend quoted dissident sources as saying Ginzburg is being charged under Article 70 of the penal code which covers "anti-Soviet" behavior. He was previously convicted under this article, so he

could now be liable to a sentence of 10 years.

In 1961 Williams represented a Soviet employee of the United Nations who was arrested in New York on charges of espionage. In that case Williams was retained by the Soviet government. His client was eventually allowed to leave the country without being tried.

Ginzburg has been held incommunicado at a prison in Kaluga outside Moscow since his arrest. The KGB often takes many months to prepare a case against such political prisoners before bringing them to trial.

Williams said yesterday he had not discussed the question of a fee for his work with Solzhenitsyn, and he declined to say whether he would ask to be paid.

Text of Solzhenitsyn Note

Following is the text of a letter from Alexander Solzhenitsyn to Edward Bennett Williams, asking Williams to represent Alexander I. Ginzburg, the Soviet dissident. Solzhenitsyn released the letter to The Washington Post yesterday.

Dear Dr. Williams,

I hereby request you to assume the legal defense of Alexander Il'ich Ginzburg, born in 1936, in the USSR.

Since 1974 Alexander Ginzburg has been the main representative of the Russian Social Fund, established by myself and ratified by the Swiss state authorities. In such capacity he helped many hundreds of prisoners in labor camps and in jail as well as their tormented families.

Due to strenuous opposition on the part of the Soviet authorities, this was an extremely difficult task exacting the highest moral quality to be able to perform it. Alexander Ginzburg was able to do so precisely thanks to his exceptional moral fiber.

In 1976 Ginzburg also took part in the activity of the Moscow group monitoring the observance of the Helsinki agreement by the Soviet authorities.

In 1977 Ginzburg was arrested.

As the Soviet authorities cannot afford to try Ginzburg openly for his charitable work, they will resort to false charges. This supposition is based not only on my thorough acquaintance with the Soviet investigational and judicial system, but also and mainly on the authorities' behavior. At the search which took place in January, KGB officials planted foreign currency in Ginzburg's flat. I declare responsibly that Ginzburg had no dealings whatsoever with foreign currency. Further, the Soviet press published statements against Ginzburg charging him with absurd criminal offenses. Soviet reality shows that no matter how absurd, accusations proffered by the press invariably find their way into court.

I believe that legal counseling in Ginzburg's case will open up a new world even to a lawyer with your vast experience and world prestige.

If you agree to undertake this case, I take it upon me to inform you in detail and on the spot of all and any developments connected with Ginzburg's situation.

(s) Alexander Solzhenitsyn

STATEMENT OF EDWARD BENNETT WILLIAMS
ON BEHALF OF ALEXANDR GINZBURG
BEFORE THE COMMISSION ON
SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

June 3, 1977

MR. CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION:

Thank you for the invitation to testify before you today.

I represent Mr. Alexandr Il'ich Ginzburg, a talented and courageous young Russian whom I have never had the honor of meeting.

Exactly four months ago today, on the night of February 3, 1977, Alexandr Ginzburg was arrested by the Soviet authorities. He left his apartment in Moscow to make a telephone call because his own phone had been disconnected. He left his apartment and never came back.

The fact of Mr. Ginzburg's arrest has now become well known. The manner in which it occurred has not -- and it offers an unsettling insight into the workings of the Soviet criminal justice system.

Mr. Ginzburg was arrested at the entrance to his apartment building. He was not permitted to return to his apartment

to tell his wife and two children that he was being taken away, and no one from the KGB thought it necessary to inform Mrs. Ginzburg. When her husband did not return from his errand, Mrs. Ginzburg rushed from her apartment to search for him, leaving her two small children alone. She found some friends to help her and spent the entire winter evening going from one office of the police to another in an attempt to find out what had happened to her husband. She was unable to learn anything. Finally, at the KGB office late that night, she was told that her husband had been detained by order of the KGB. The following day, Mrs. Ginzburg learned that her husband had been taken to Kaluga Prison, some two hundred kilometers away from Moscow.

Since his arrest four months ago, Mr. Ginzburg has not been permitted to see, talk with or in any way communicate with his wife, his family, his friends.

Mr. Ginzburg has had no contact with anyone outside of the walls of Kaluga Prison.

Mr. Ginzburg has not been permitted access to an attorney.

Mr. Ginzburg has been charged with no offense.

But we do know why Alexandr Ginzburg was arrested.

Mr. Ginzburg is a prominent member of a large and growing group of Soviet citizens who have, during the past fifteen years, protested the absence of human freedom in the Soviet Union.

Mr. Ginzburg is forty years old. He has spent seven of those years in Russian prisons.

In the West, Alexandr Ginzburg is most famous for his reports of the trial of the Russian dissidents, Sinyavsky and Daniel. While that report, the White Book, was being published and circulated in the West, Ginzburg sent copies to deputies of the Supreme Soviet. For these activities, Ginzburg was arrested on January 23, 1967 and charged with violating Article 70 of the Soviet Criminal Code.

Article 70 is that portion of the Soviet Criminal Code which makes it a crime to circulate "slandorous fabrications which defame the Soviet state and social system for the purpose of subverting or weakening the Soviet regime." Article 70 also makes it a crime to prepare or keep for the same purpose "literature of such content."

At the conclusion of his trial before the Moscow City Court in 1968, Mr. Ginzburg stated: "I know you will convict me, because no one indicted under Article 70 has ever been acquitted. My conscience is clear as I go to serve my sentence. You can send me to prison or to a labor camp, but I am convinced that no honest person will condemn me."

Mr. Ginzburg was sentenced to five years "deprivation of freedom." One of his co-defendants, Yuri Galonskov, was sentenced to seven years and died in a labor camp in 1972.

Ginzburg's Soviet lawyer, Mr. Boris Zolotukhin, instead of pleading suppliantly for mercy did the unprecedented thing of asking for his client's acquittal. For that he was disbarred and expelled from the Party.

Ginzburg's trial provoked a tremendous flood of protests from Soviet intellectuals. His notoriety within the Soviet Union, his close association with Andrei Sakharov and Alexandr Solzhenitsyn, his history of activities on behalf of human rights in the Soviet Union and his resolute unwillingness to give up those activities in the face of repeated arrest and harassment -- these are some of the reasons behind Mr. Ginzburg's most recent arrest.

Another, more specific reason for Mr. Ginzburg's arrest is his association with the Russian Social Fund, a charitable organization established by Alexandr Solzhenitsyn three years ago to help political prisoners and their families inside the Soviet Union. Mr. Ginzburg is the representative of the Fund, and during the past three years over 900 families of political prisoners have received help and support from this charitable organization.

An additional reason for Mr. Ginzburg's recent arrest is his participation as a founding member of the Public Group to Promote the Observance of the Helsinki Agreements in the USSR -- better known as the Helsinki Watch Group.

This organization was formed on May 12, 1976 for the purpose of promoting Soviet observance of the humanitarian provisions contained in the Helsinki Accords. Mr. Ginzburg was instrumental in preparing a series of documents -- many of which have been published by this Commission -- detailing the oppression of political dissidents within the Soviet Union.

Two days after the KGB arrested Alexandr Ginzburg in Moscow, two members of the Ukrainian branch of the Helsinki Watch Group, Mikola Rudenko and Oleska Tykhy, were also arrested. One week later, the founder and leader of the group, Dr. Yuri Orlov, was also arrested. And in March, Anatoly Shcharansky, the representative of the Jewish "refuseniks" -- those individuals who have applied for permission to emigrate to Israel and been denied -- was also arrested. Most recently, in April, two members of the newly formed Georgian branch of the Helsinki Watch Group, Zviad Gamsakhurdia and Merab Kostava, were also arrested by the KGB.

This sequence of events leads me to conclude that Mr. Ginzburg's activities with the Helsinki Watch Group are what triggered Mr. Ginzburg's arrest in February.

My involvement in the case of Alexandr Ginzburg began on February 26, 1977, when, after receiving a letter from Alexandr Solzhenitsyn, I met with him and his wife in their home in Cavendish, Vermont. The Solzhenitsyns are close friends of the Ginzburgs, and they requested me "to assume the legal defense" of Mr. Ginzburg.

Soon after my initial meeting with Mr. and Mrs. Solshenitsyn, I received a telephone call from Irina Zholkovskaya, Mr. Ginzburg's wife. During that conversation, Mrs. Ginzburg repeated the request that I represent Mr. Ginzburg in his criminal case. I

agreed to do so. Since our telephone conversation, I have received a letter from Mrs. Ginzburg formalizing her request.

On April 13, 1977, I wrote the Honorable Anatoly F. Dobrynin, Ambassador to the United States from the Soviet Union, requesting a visa to meet with Mrs. Ginzburg, to meet with Mr. Ginzburg if possible, and to consult with "those persons who would have the information necessary for me to provide legal advice and counsel to Mr. Ginzburg."

I had reason, I thought, to believe that my request might be viewed with greater favor than other, similar requests. In 1960 and 1961, at the request of the Soviet Embassy, I represented Igor Y. Melekh, a Soviet citizen accused of violating the espionage laws of the United States. And several years later, I represented Igor A. Ivanov, again at the request of the Soviet Embassy. In connection with my representation of Mr. Ivanov, two of my law partners obtained visas to and did visit the Soviet Union to gather information vital to Mr. Ivanov's defense.

I thought, perhaps naively, that the procedural fairness shown to Soviet citizens accused of spying in this country -- and incidentally, the vigorous defense that we were able to mount on their behalf -- might be reciprocated in some small way, if only by granting me permission to travel to the Soviet Union to confer with the wife of my client.

I learned to the contrary. My request for a visa was denied.

Mr. Chairman, it is not my custom to hold press conferences or to make statements to Congressional commissions such as this. One or to appeal to public opinion on behalf of individuals I represent. It has been my belief that justice is best served through the orderly and measured processes of the courts. It has been my belief that the courtroom and not the courthouse steps is where the appeals to fairness are most effectively and properly heard. It has been my belief that the facts set forth before an impartial judge and a jury -- honestly and even-handedly -- are the best guides to truth. It has been my belief that an open and public trial where the accused may confront his accusers is the surest path toward justice.

But in the defense of Alexandr Ginzburg, it appears that I will have no courtroom, no judge, no jury, no opportunity to confront my client's accusers, no chance even to present my client's defense. It appears that the only courtroom I will have in which to present the defense of Alexandr Ginzburg is the courtroom of world opinion.

On August 1, 1975, along with thirty-four other participating States, the Soviet Union signed the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. Article VII of that Act pledges that:

The participating States will respect human rights and fundamental freedoms including the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, for all, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion.

They will promote and encourage the effective exercise of civil, political, economic, social, cultural and other rights and freedoms all of which derive from the inherent dignity of the human person and are essential for his free and full development. [They] will act in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

On August 1, 1975, General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev solemnly signed his name to this document on behalf of the peoples of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. On February 3, 1977, when the KGB arrested Alexandr Ginzburg and spirited him away into the night, that solemn pledge was broken.

In Helsinki, the Soviet Union, along with thirty-four other participating States, made it their aim "to facilitate freer movement and contacts, individually and collectively, whether privately or officially, among persons, institutions and organizations of the participating States, and to contribute to the solution of the humanitarian problems that arise in that connection . . ."

This week, when I was finally told that I could not travel to the Soviet Union to consult with the wife of my client, a second solemn pledge by the Soviet Union was broken.

On August 1, 1975, the Soviet Union re-asserted its commitment to the principles and purposes of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Article Nine of that Declaration states: "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile."

Article Ten states: "Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him."

Article Eleven states: "Everyone charged with a penal offense has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defense."

Article Twelve of that Declaration states: "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks."

And Article Nineteen states: "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes the freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and

impart information and ideas through any media regardless of frontiers."

I must add that Article 127 of the Constitution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics states that "Citizens of the U.S.S.R. are guaranteed inviolability of the person. No person may be placed under arrest except by decision of a court or with the sanction of a procurator."

Mr. Chairman, I submit that when the KGB arrested Mr. Alexandr Ginzburg on the night of February 3, 1977, the Soviet Union tore up the Helsinki Agreement, the Charter to the United Nations, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. And before the world, the Soviet Union turned its back on its own Constitution.

Before I conclude, I must report that my deepest fears are for the life of Mr. Ginzburg. The many years that Alexandr Ginzburg has spent in prisons and labor camps have left deep scars on his health. He suffers from an extremely severe stomach ulcer. A short time before his arrest (three days), he was released from a hospital where he had just spent twenty days. He had been admitted for treatment of a case of bronchitis but it later developed into a serious case of pneumonia. During his treatment, the doctors also discovered tuberculosis. Mr. Ginzburg was released from the hospital on the condition that his treatment would continue in a special hospital for TB patients.

At the time of his arrest, Mr. Ginzburg was still a very sick man suffering from an extremely high temperature. Since his arrest, Mrs. Ginzburg has been unsuccessful in her attempts to get nourishing food to her husband. We do not know what kind of medical treatment he is receiving, if any.

From the statements of Vladimir Bukovsky, who was recently released by the Soviet Union in an exchange, we know that conditions in the Soviet prisons and prison camps are extremely unhealthy at best, inhuman at worst.

In the case of Alexandr Ginzburg, we are talking not only of his human rights, we are also talking about human life.

Alexandr Ginzburg would be the last person to give up the struggle. On April 21, 1974, he issued a statement about his efforts to help the families of political prisoners in the Soviet Union, anticipating the problems that lay ahead. He said:

It is easy to foresee that new obstacles will arise along the way. This always happens in our country when the public hears not the glorification of the authorities but bitter testimony as to the results of their power. But I share Solzhenitsyn's conviction that the right of might must inevitably yield to the might of right.
And of goodness.

STATEMENT OF GREGORY B. CRAIG
ON BEHALF OF ALEXANDER GINZBURG
BEFORE THE INTERNATIONAL SAKHAROV HEARING

ROME, ITALY
NOVEMBER 28, 1977

MR. CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS OF THE PANEL, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I am here today to present the case of Alexander Ginzburg. I am here today to tell the story of a courageous young Russian who, because of the quiet strength of his leadership and the power of his purpose, has been arrested and now sits, cut off from his family and friends, alone and in broken health, behind the walls of a Russian prison.

Alexander Ginzburg is well known to the world as one of the founders of the Helsinki Watch Group and the original caretaker of the Russian Social Fund, a humane and charitable organization established to aid the families of those thousands of men and women who today suffer for their beliefs in Russian jails.

Ten months ago, on the night of February 3, 1977, Alexander Ginzburg was arrested by the Soviet authorities. Since his arrest, Mr. Ginzburg has not been permitted to see,

to talk with, or to communicate in any way with his wife, his two young children, his mother, or his friends. Mr. Ginzburg has had no contact with anyone outside the walls of his prison. He has not been permitted access to an attorney. He has not been charged publicly with any offense. An attempt has been made to make it appear as if Alexander Ginzburg had vanished from the face of the Earth.

The fact of Mr. Ginzburg's arrest and detention is well known to the world. The manner in which it occurred is not -- and it offers an unsettling insight into the workings of the Soviet criminal justice system.

On the night of February 3, 1977, Mr. Ginzburg left his apartment in Moscow to make a telephone call because his own phone had been disconnected. He left his apartment and never came back. He was arrested at the entrance to his building, and, although his wife Irina Zholkovskaya and his two small children awaited his return in the apartment above, he was not permitted to tell them that he was being taken away. No one from the KGB had the common decency to inform Mrs. Ginzburg that her husband had been arrested.

When her husband did not return from his errand, Mrs. Ginzburg rushed from her apartment to search for him, leaving her two small children alone. She found some friends to help

her and spent the entire winter evening going from one office of the police to another in an attempt to find out what had happened to her husband. And, since his health was so poor, she checked with hospitals and clinics. She was unable to learn anything. Finally, at the office of the KGB in the early hours of the next morning, Mrs. Ginzburg was told that her husband had been detained. The following day, Mrs. Ginzburg learned that her husband had been taken to Kaluga Prison, some two hundred kilometers away from Moscow.

Although we do not know what offense Alexander Ginzburg is alleged to have committed, we do know why he was arrested.

Mr. Ginzburg was a brilliant student who gave up his work to embrace the cause of freedom in the Soviet Union. He is a writer, a poet, and a masterful journalist. He first gained fame in the West for his comprehensive report of the trial of the Russian dissidents, Sinyavsky and Daniel. Before that report was published and circulated in the West, Ginzburg sent copies to deputies of the Supreme Soviet. For these activities, Ginzburg was arrested on January 23, 1967 and charged with violating Article 70 of the Soviet Criminal Code.

At the conclusion of his trial before the Moscow City Court in 1968, Mr. Ginzburg stated: "I know you will convict me, because no one indicted under Article 70 has ever been

acquitted. My conscience is clear as I go to serve my sentence. You can send me to prison or to a labor camp, but I am convinced that no honest person will condemn me." Ginzburg also delivered an impassioned plea for his co-defendant, Yuri Galonskov, who was in very poor health.

Mr. Ginzburg was sentenced to five years "deprivation of freedom." His co-defendant, Mr. Galonskov, was sentenced to seven years and died in a labor camp in 1972.

Mr. Ginzburg's Soviet lawyer, Mr. Boris Zolothukin, instead of confessing guilt and begging for mercy, did the unprecedented thing of making an eloquent presentation to the Court asking for his client's acquittal. For that he was disbarred and expelled from the Party.

Ginzburg's trial in 1968 provoked a tremendous flood of protests from Soviet intellectuals. His fame within Soviet society, his close association with Andrei Sakharov and Alexander Solzhenitsyn, his history of activities on behalf of human rights in the Soviet Union, and his resolute unwillingness to give up those activities in the face of repeated arrest and harassment -- these are some of the reasons behind Mr. Ginzburg's most recent arrest.

Another, more specific reason for Mr. Ginzburg's arrest is his association with the Russian Social Fund, established by Alexander Solzhenitsyn three years ago to help political prisoners and their families inside the Soviet Union. Mr. Ginzburg was the first representative of the Fund, and during the past three years, hundreds of families of political prisoners -- now close to a thousand we believe -- have received help and comfort from Mr. Ginzburg and his charitable organization.

In the course of our efforts on Mr. Ginzburg's behalf, we have received letters from some of the people whom Alexander Ginzburg has helped. These people cannot be here to testify personally, so I would like to submit their letters into evidence and read, briefly, one or two excerpts. One woman wrote:

I am the wife of a political prisoner. Alexander Ginzburg helped me; he always helped me, even before the Fund was created. I found support and compassion in his people. Many people looked to Alexander Ginzburg for help and always received it, together with human attention and care. He carried a huge burden and we realize this with particular clarity now that he has been taken away from us.

Another woman has written:

The help I received from Ginzburg was indispensable to keep my family alive. Such help was particularly valuable at the time of my children's long sickness. During that period, I had no income and no means to survive . . . The Fund's help also enabled me to travel to the camp where my husband was being held for a meeting with him . . . Aside from the material help, there was Ginzburg's moving attention to our needs and worries. His personal kindness and gentleness were most valuable to me in my difficult situation.

The letters are unanimous: Nothing was ever demanded in return. Each letter that we received indicates that aid and support were provided without conditions, and every person who wrote to us has stated his or her willingness to testify on behalf of Alexander Ginzburg.

If it is a crime in the Soviet Union to care for those who suffer, Alexander Ginzburg is guilty.

If it is a crime in the Soviet Union to bring food to the hungry, medicine to the sick, and help to the needy, Alexander Ginzburg is guilty.

If it is a crime in the Soviet Union to inspire hope in the hearts of those who have lost hope, Alexander Ginzburg is guilty.

As Mr. Solzhenitsyn wrote Mrs Khodorovich and Malva Landa after Mr. Ginzburg's arrest:

"For a Soviet citizen, even charity has become an act of courage leading to something unknown and terrifying."

An additional reason for Mr. Ginzburg's arrest is his participation as a founding member of the Public Group to Promote the Observance of the Helsinki Agreements in the USSR -- better known as the Helsinki Watch Group.

This organization was formed on May 12, 1976 for the purpose of promoting Soviet observance of the humanitarian provisions contained in the Helsinki Accords. Mr. Ginzburg was instrumental in preparing a series of accurate and complete reports detailing the oppression of political dissidents within the Soviet Union.

Two days after the KGB arrested Alexander Ginzburg, two members of the Ukrainian branch of the Helsinki Watch Group, Mikola Rudenko and Oleska Tykhy, were also arrested. One week later, the founder and leader of the group, Dr. Yuri Orlov, was also arrested. And in March, Anatoly Scharansky, was also arrested. Then, in April, two members of the newly formed Georgian branch of the Helsinki Watch Group, Zviad Gamsakhurdia and Merab Kostava, were also arrested by the KGB.

This sequence of events leads me to conclude that Mr. Ginzburg's activities with the Helsinki Watch Group are what triggered Mr. Ginzburg's arrest in February.

On April 13, 1977, Edward Bennett Williams who had been asked by Mrs. Ginzburg to represent her husband, wrote Anatoly F. Dobrynin, Ambassador to the United States from the Soviet Union, requesting a visa to meet with Mrs. Ginzburg, to meet with Mr. Ginzburg if possible, and to consult with "those persons who would have the information necessary for [him] to provide legal advice and counsel to Mr. Ginzburg."

We had reason to believe that Mr. Williams' request might be viewed with greater favor than might otherwise be the case. In 1960 and 1961, at the request of the Soviet Embassy, Mr. Williams represented Mr. Igor Y. Melekh, a Soviet citizen accused of violating the espionage laws of the United States. And several years later, Mr. Williams represented Igor A. Ivanov, again at the request of the Soviet Embassy. In connection with our representation of Mr. Ivanov, two of the lawyers in our firm obtained visas to and did visit the Soviet Union to gather information vital to Mr. Ivanov's defense in the United States.

We had thought, perhaps naively, that the procedural fairness shown to Soviet citizens accused of spying in the United States -- and, incidentally, the vigorous defense that

we were able to mount on their behalf -- might be reciprocated in some small way, if only by granting permission for us to travel to the Soviet Union to confer with the wife of Alexander Ginzburg.

We learned to the contrary. Although there is nothing in the Code of Penal Procedure of the Russian Soviet Federal Socialist Republic which prohibits the participation of foreign counsel in the representation of a criminal defendant, Mr. Williams' request for a visa was denied.

We have just been told by Mrs. Ginzburg that, in October, she was summoned to appear before the KGB in an attempt to induce her to testify against her husband. She refused to do so, and she was told by her interrogators that she should look for a lawyer for her husband. She replied "My husband already has a lawyer."

In light of the official notice given to Mrs. Ginzburg by officials with the KGB that she should obtain the services of a lawyer for her husband, we are making preparations to renew our request for a visa to travel to the Soviet Union.

It has been said that there has been progress in the Soviet Union since the days of Stalin. Under Stalin, people

were prosecuted, tried, convicted and punished -- often executed -- for things they never did. Today, it is said, there is at least some connection between what someone did, what he is accused of doing, and what he is ultimately punished for having done.

I respectfully submit that the case of Alexander Ginzburg may prove to the world that Stalinism is not dead in the Soviet Union. Right now, as we meet here today, the Soviet authorities are engaged in a massive campaign to invent, fabricate, and manufacture evidence against Alexander Ginzburg. Let me cite two examples.

One month before Alexander Ginzburg was arrested, the Soviet authorities conducted an intense search of the Ginzburgs' apartment. I would like to submit into evidence Mrs. Ginzburg's description of the search, and a statement to the authorities signed by Mr. Ginzburg.

At 8:45 a.m. on January 4, 1977, seven persons appeared at the Ginzburg's door. Mr. Ginzburg had left earlier that morning and did not arrive back at his apartment until approximately 9:15 a.m.

During the first ten minutes of the search, the Chief of the search party, a Mr. Borovik, went into the bathroom

to begin the search, insisting that Mrs. Ginzburg accompany him and stand next to him. He turned his back to Mrs. Ginzburg and to one of the witnesses who was also present in the bathroom. Borovik opened the door of the medicine cabinet and began looking at the objects inside, turning them over in his hand, one by one. Since he was standing with his back to the other people in the room, it was not possible to see exactly what he was doing. Suddenly he pulled out an envelope, from where no one could see. The envelope contained foreign currency, how much and from what nationality no one could tell.

Although the search continued without interruption for another nineteen hours, Borovik's role was completed and he no longer took part. The authorities contend that \$130 in U.S. currency and 1,400 German Marks were discovered in the Ginzburg apartment, and it is alleged that this money was found "in a secret hiding place."

In fact, in the gross and clumsy way I just described, this currency was planted by the authorities, but it will probably be used as the basis for some future prosecution.

In addition, we have received reports from prisoners inside Russian jails and work camps indicating that the authorities have summoned scores of other political prisoners

for questioning in connection with the Ginzburg investigation. In a letter I would like to submit as evidence to this Commission, one man told us he was brought to Kaluga Prison for a period of three months and interrogated every day about Alexander Ginzburg's activities with the Social Fund, about his alleged contacts with "foreign institutions," about his "currency deals, speculation, corruption, forgery, crookedness, drinking, immoral behavior, and so on." This prisoner was told that he too would be accused and prosecuted unless he cooperated in the Ginzburg case.

It is clear that the Soviet authorities are in the process of preparing a show trial. As Alexander Ginzburg's mother wrote to us, after being questioned by the KGB:

We are deprived of all rights, helpless against slander, lies and violence. KGB officials grin cynically while openly stating that death is what awaits my son and his friends if they do not [publicly confess and recant.]

It is, of course, impossible to present a legal defense for someone without knowing what crimes he has been charged with. I believe that it is important, however, for the world to know the character and personality of this man. For that reason, I would like to submit into evidence and read excerpts

from the statement of one of the individuals who has known and worked with Alexander Ginzburg.

Malva Landa succeeded Alexander Ginzburg as the representative of the Social Fund and was recently sent into exile thousands of miles away from Moscow to Asiatic Russia. Landa wrote to us:

Alexander Ginzburg was always available to everybody: to those who came simply to see him and talk, and to those who needed help, support and advice. He was invariably patient, understanding, tolerant, kind, wise and extremely modest and self-effacing. He never told anybody what to do or how to do it.

A flow of kindness and wisdom emanated from him. The only person for whom he never had any time was himself. No time and no energy to take care of food, clothing, even of health. This was his deliberate choice as a way of life. It often happened that only late at night would he have a free moment to eat a dish of soup or a loaf of bread with milk. He was usually unable to go to bed before midnight, and he always got up around six o'clock in order to help his wife with the small children and the household chores.

There was no common ideology to unite people around him. He was surrounded by persons of various creeds and opinions. What mattered, the only determining criterion was one basic principle: refusal of violence, lies, hypocrisy and intolerance; and defense of the freedom of conscience, of thought and word. People were unified by common respect for human personality, and the desire to help those unjustly persecuted, arrested and jailed.

Any human being's destruction is a calamity. But it is a catastrophe and a threat to all mankind when the best, kindest and noblest people are deliberately and silently destroyed. Alexander Ginzburg believes that what he has done will not be in vain, that the words he said and wrote will find an echo in many people's hearts and minds, and that these people will be willing to help and defend innocent victims of persecution.

Alexander Ginzburg has again joined the ranks of the "innocent victims of persecution." At the age of forty, he has already spent eight years of his life in Soviet jails. His cause cries out to the world, and his case cannot be ignored.

On August 1, 1975, along with thirty-four other participating States, the Soviet Union signed the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. Article VII of that Act pledges that:

The participating States will respect human rights and fundamental freedoms including the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, for all without distinction as to race, sex language or religion.

On August 1, 1975, General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev solemnly signed his name to this document on behalf of the peoples of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. On

February 3, 1977, when the KGB arrested Alexander Ginzburg and spirited him away into the night, that solemn pledge was broken.

In Helsinki, the Soviet Union, along with thirty-four other participating states, made it their aim "to facilitate freer movement and contacts, individually and collectively, whether privately or officially, among persons, institutions and organizations of the participating States, and to contribute to the solution of the humanitarian problems that arise in that connection"

When we were told that we could not travel to the Soviet Union to consult with the wife of Alexander Ginzburg, a second solemn pledge by the Soviet Union was broken.

On August 1, 1975, the Soviet Union reasserted its commitment to the principles and purposes of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Article Nine of that Declaration states: "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile."

Article Ten states: "Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him."

Article Eleven states: "Everyone charged with a penal offense has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defense."

Article Twelve of that Declaration states: "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honor and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks."

And Article Nineteen states: "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes the freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media regardless of frontiers."

I must add that Article 127 of the Constitution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics states that "Citizens of the U.S.S.R. are guaranteed inviolability of the person. No person may be placed under arrest except by decision of a court or with the sanction of a procurator."

Article 97 of the Soviet Code of Criminal Procedure provides that confinement under guard during the investigation of a case may not exceed nine months, and only then "in exceptional instances" and in case of "special complexity" by order of the Procurator General.

Mr. Chairman, I submit that when the KGB arrested Mr. Alexander Ginzburg on the night of February 3, 1977, the Soviet Union tore up the Helsinki Agreement, the Charter to the United Nations, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. And before the world, the Soviet Union turned its back on its own Constitution, and by holding him in confinement and incommunicado for ten months, the Soviet Union has violated its own Code of Criminal Procedure.

Before I conclude, I must report that my deepest fears are for the life of Mr. Ginzburg. The many years that Alexander Ginzburg has spent in prisons and labor camps have left deep scars on his health. He suffers from an extremely severe stomach ulcer. A short time before his arrest (three days), he was released from a hospital where he had just spent twenty days. He had been admitted for treatment of a case of bronchitis but it later developed into a serious case of pneumonia. During his treatment, the doctors also discovered tuberculosis. Mr. Ginzburg was released from the hospital on the condition that his treatment would continue in a special hospital for TB patients.

At the time of his arrest, Mr. Ginzburg was still a very sick man suffering from an extremely high temperature. Since his arrest, Mrs. Ginzburg has been unsuccessful in her

attempts to get nourishing food to her husband. We do not know what kind of medical treatment he is receiving, if any.

From the statements of Vladimir Burovsky, who was recently released by the Soviet Union in an exchange, we know that conditions in the Soviet prisons and prison camps are extremely unhealthy at best, inhuman at worst.

In the case of Alexander Ginzburg, we are talking not only of his human rights, we are also talking about human life.

Alexander Ginzburg would be the last person to give up the struggle. On April 21, 1974, he issued a statement about his efforts to help the families of political prisoners in the Soviet Union, anticipating the problems that lay ahead. He said:

It is easy to foresee that new obstacles will arise along the way. This always happens in our country when the public hears not the glorification of the authorities but bitter testimony as to the results of their power. But I share Solzhenitsyn's conviction that the right of might must inevitably yield to the might of right. And of goodness.

STATEMENT BY MRS. ALEXANDER SOLZHENITSYN

Eight years have been taken out of the life of Alexander Ginzburg by Soviet prisons and labor camps -- and today is the eighth anniversary of that year.

I have known Alexander Ginzburg for 14 years. We first met in 1964, when he was 28 years old and had already spent two years in labor camp. He was always well liked because of his open nature, his sensitivity to injustice and to other people's suffering and for his bright spirit and sharp mind. Soon he was again arrested and sentenced to five years of "strict regime" labor camp. Alexander Ginzburg is one of those rare human beings who deem their own suffering insignificant in comparison to the ocean of sorrow of others. While he was in camp the tragic plight of hundreds of fellow-inmates and their wives and children became deeply impressed in his heart.

I was on very friendly terms with his wife Irina and I well remember what he had written her from prison a short time before his release: "Understand and accept that I shall never forget those who remain here. I have to dedicate all my efforts to them." This meant that even after his release there would be no peace, no well-being. His faithful Irina accepted this.

In 1972, when he had served his second term he came out a very sick man. At that time he met Alexander Solzhenitsyn and elicited his deep respect for his unswerving loyalty to the prisoners of the Gulag Archipelago and for the quiet courage of his readiness to accept new hardships and a new arrest. They became friends. It was at that time that they conceived the idea of organizing systematic help for prisoners' families. Solzhenitsyn offered the royalties from the publication of his works in the West, and it was then, in 1973 that such help began to ensue.

After his expulsion from the Soviet Union in 1974, Solzhenitsyn created in Switzerland the Russian Social Fund to which he donated all royalties from the publication of his book The Gulag Archipelago throughout the world and in all languages. The main executor for the Fund in the Soviet Union was Alexander Ginzburg and he held this post for three years, up to his arrest. Since that time the Fund has helped hundreds

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of prisoners' families, without making any differentiation as to nationality, political belief or religion. Among those who have received our help were Russians, Ukrainians, Lithuanians, Jews, Germans, Armenians, Georgians, Estonians and Tatars. They were Russian Orthodox, Muslims, Baptists and persons of other religions. The only criteria for distributing the Fund's assistance is the degree of a family's need.

Ginzburg possessed those exclusive qualities necessary for performing this difficult and dangerous activity: kindness, lack of fear, calmness and an exceptional memory for remembering the number of children in a given family, which little boy was ill and what type of medicine he needed, which little girl required warm clothing, which wife had no money to send her husband a package and who did not have the fare to buy a train ticket to visit someone in camp. Although he himself was very ill, he always had enough time for others.

He worked under the condition of being constantly watched, spied upon, his correspondence was intercepted and his home was susceptible to theft-like searches. In February of 1977 Ginzburg was arrested by the organs of state security. I would like to draw attention to the fact that it is precisely state security that handles such matters: in fact, in our country acts of mercy have always been considered a threat to the state. Communists have been leading a battle against charity for 60 years. Even in the 1920's, the natural right to exercise mercy was forbidden and taken away not only from the church but also from any public organization or groups of individuals.

The Political Red Cross, an organization which existed from pre-revolutionary Russia, was abolished and all its workers were arrested and killed. During the period of collectivization, in the 1930's, not only the heads of families but also their small children were destroyed! Such was the tactic of the Communists, in this way 15 million souls were destroyed! During World War II the Soviet Union was the only allied country to forbid the International Red Cross to help Soviet prisoners of war. In camps where Soviet POW's were held, 90 per cent died of starvation and those who remained alive ate shoe soles and bats. In our time prison guards unleash their dogs on persons who dare approach a column of prisoners to give them a piece of bread,

and they might even shoot -- the "humane" nature of Soviet law authorizes them to do so. In olden days not a single widow would sit down at the Easter table without bringing food to the town prison, for prisoners whom she did not know -- this was a tradition. Now, a prisoner is entitled to one 5 kilo parcel per year, and even then only after serving half of his term.

Our Fund is attempting to revive the feelings of compassion which are deeply rooted in our people. It is an attempt to help the prisoners of today's Gulag Archipelago to survive, as well as their suffering families, to show them that they are not alone in the face of the terrifying Soviet machine of destruction. And it is precisely this fact which elicits the Soviet authorities' wrath. Alexander Ginzburg is under arrest. His successors were also dealt with -- Malva Landa was exiled to Siberia and Kronid Lubarsky and Tatiana Khodorovich were forced into emigration. Families of prisoners who receive help from the Fund are being searched out and persecuted and the KGB has also transferred its battle against the Fund in the West. At the present time the Soviet secret police is attempting to learn the names of the Fund's recipients in Switzerland and it is trying to slander the Fund by distributing anonymous letters among the Western press. I do not know of any other Fund in the world which is forced to work under such trying and dangerous conditions. But nonetheless, it works! Its assistance is needed by thousands of Soviet prisoners.

Now their ranks have been joined by the courageous members of the Helsinki Watch Groups. And we have heard about the KGB's attempts to arrest workers who have declared the creation of an independent trade union. The regime of cannibals will yet tuck away many others into jails, laughing at any agreements that it had signed.

At the present time the Fund's executors in the Soviet Union are Ginzburg's wife, Irina, and Sergey Khodorovich. Just think, the wife of the man who was arrested for his acts of mercy has now taken his place. What else can testify more clearly to the purity and rightness of his acts? People in the free world may find it difficult to understand, how can anyone be persecuted for acts of charity? Why does it happen?

It happens because in its very essence communism is an enemy of humanism, it is an enemy of any religion and to the concept of mercy. It happens because the extended hand of a person offering help deprives the government of its total power over the bodies and souls of its citizen-slaves. In the case of Alexander Ginzburg this extended hand is what the authorities could not forgive.

For this Ginzburg was arrested. For this he has been held in prison for an entire year without official charges, without a trial, in complete isolation. Hundreds of people are being questioned about his case, under threat they are forced to give false testimony. And for this he is going to be tried. No matter what absurd false charges may be brought against him at the trial, no matter what sort of show trial will be organized, it will be communism's trial over mercy.

I call on those who may hear me to help defend the human right of exercising and receiving charity which is being trampled upon by communism and to prevent a reprisal against Alexander Ginzburg.

And I ask all believers to pray for this man who has truly "given his life for others."

New York, February 3, 1978

Natalia Solzhenitsyn
President
Russian Social Fund to Help Those
Who Are Persecuted and Their Families.

STATEMENT OF EDWARD BENNETT WILLIAMS

FEBRUARY 3, 1978

NEW YORK CITY

We have met today not only to announce a new and important initiative in the ongoing battle for human rights in the Soviet Union. We have also met to remind the world that the young Russian dissident, Alexander Ginzburg, was arrested exactly one year ago today by the KGB. Last February 3, under cover of night and with no word to his wife or his family, the secret police snatched Alexander Ginzburg from his doorstep and spirited him out of the city of Moscow to Kaluga Prison. There he remains -- a living symbol of the plight of free men and women inside the Soviet Union.

Since his arrest, the case of Alexander Ginzburg has been shrouded in secrecy and official silence. He has been charged with no crime. He has been permitted no visitors. He cannot communicate with his family or with his friends. We do not know whether their communications are permitted to reach him. He is not represented by counsel. On learning that my application to enter the Soviet Union had been denied, Mrs. Ginzburg approached fifteen different attorneys inside the Soviet Union to request representation for her

husband. Each of these individuals refused her request.

Alexander Ginzburg was the first of the dissidents to be arrested. The delay in bringing charges against him is absolutely unprecedented even in the Soviet Union. The authorities have already violated the time limits set forth in the Soviet Code of Criminal Procedure and, unlike the case of Anatoly Shcharansky, no official extension of time has been announced.

The reasons for this delay are clear.

First, Alexander Ginzburg has committed no crimes, and the Soviet authorities have no evidence of crimes. When no offense has been committed, it takes time to manufacture evidence and concoct charges. The KGB has already interviewed over two hundred individuals in an attempt to obtain evidence against Alexander Ginzburg. Some of these people have already been prosecuted, convicted and sentenced to jail because of their unwillingness to cooperate in the investigation. The investigation is still open.

A second reason for the delay is the ongoing Belgrade Conference of the Helsinki signatory nations. It is rapidly drawing to a close. The Soviets have steadfastly refused to discuss the human rights provisions in the Helsinki Accords. But if Alexander Ginzburg or Yuri Orlov or Anatoly Shcharansky

were tried today with the Belgrade Conference still in session, an outraged public opinion would compel the nations of the world to confront the Soviet Union openly with this powerful evidence of its bad faith.

I do not have to be a prophet to predict with confidence that, once the Helsinki signatories leave Belgrade, the Soviet authorities will proceed with cynical celerity with the prosecutions.

It is a particular honor to be here today with Mrs. Solzhenitsyn, a woman of great courage and compassion in her own right. She is here today to speak on behalf of Alexander Ginzburg, a dear and close friend of the Solzhenitsyns. After his forced exile from the Soviet Union, Alexander Solzhenitsyn asked Alik Ginzburg to oversee the activities of the Russian Social Fund, a charitable organization founded by Mr. Solzhenitsyn from the proceeds of Gulag Archipelago to aid the families of political prisoners in the Soviet Union. Alexander Ginzburg's activities on behalf of that Fund -- taking food, clothing, and medicine to needy families -- is one of the reasons for his arrest. It has evidently become a crime in the Soviet Union to care for the suffering and to help those in need.

It is also a great honor for me to announce the formation of a Committee for the Defense of Alexander Ginzburg

a group of internationally prominent men and women who have joined together for the purpose of defending a man who has become a symbol of honor and courage and freedom to the entire world. The membership of this Committee includes such distinguished Americans as Senators Jackson and Moynihan, Mayor Koch and Congresswoman Millicent Fenwick. This Committee will continue to grow and will include people from all professions and of all political persuasions.

I would like to read the text of a short telegram that the Defense Committee has sent today to Premier Brezhnev on behalf of Alexander Ginzburg. Copies of this telegram have also been sent to the heads of state of all the signatories to the Helsinki Accords, to President Carter, and to Ambassador Arthur Goldberg who represents the United States in Belgrade.

"Humanitarian considerations compel us to urge the immediate release of Alexander Ginzburg, held in total isolation at Kaluga Prison for one year. His grave state of health makes us fear for his life. Please save this courageous man who has committed no crime but is being punished for committing acts of charity and defending the basic human rights of others."

Finally, I would like to issue this word of warning to the leaders of the Soviet Union:

You cannot expect the people of the United States to support this Nation's compliance with the other provisions in the Helsinki Accords if the Soviet Union persists in its refusal to comply with its pledge to respect human rights;

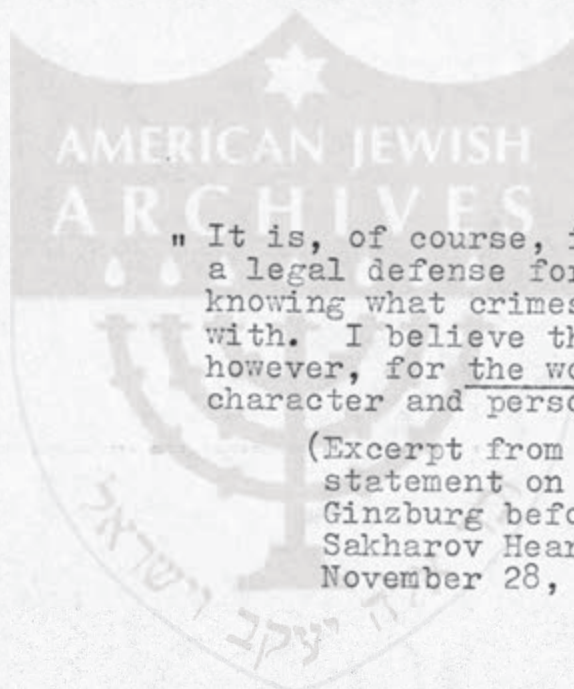
You cannot expect the people of the United States to trust the word of the Soviet Government in a SALT Treaty if you so defiantly break your word in the Helsinki Agreement;

And you cannot expect the people of the United States to continue to support detente if you continue to trample on the fundamental human rights of your own citizens.

Alexander Ginzburg is but one man, but he is a blazing symbol of freedom to the rest of the world. He must be released now.

PRESS CONFERENCE IN MOSCOW
on February 2, 1978
(in connection with the
anniversary of Ginzburg's
arrest)

IN DEFENSE OF ALEXANDER GINZBURG



"It is, of course, impossible to present a legal defense for someone without knowing what crimes he has been charged with. I believe that it is important, however, for the world to know the character and personality of this man."

(Excerpt from Attorney Gregory Craig's statement on behalf of Alexander Ginzburg before the International Sakharov Hearings in Rome, on November 28, 1977).

A p p e a l

To the Belgrade Conference of signatories of the Helsinki Agreement.

Gentlemen,

We are today commemorating a bitter anniversary. It is a year since Alexander Ginzburg was arrested. He has spent one year in cruel and total isolation in jail. His mother and his wife have been living all this year in anguish and sorrow. His children have been orphans. It has been a year of struggle, hope and disappointments, specifically in connection with the developments at your conference, for all those who take his fate to heart.

According to Soviet law, a year of pre-trial imprisonment is equal to three years of exile. Alexander Ginzburg has been in jail for one year without a trial and without a sentence. Outside of the investigators' offices, nobody knows what charges are being brought against Alexander Ginzburg, or when his trial is supposed to take place. Nonetheless the investigation has again been extended. This is done surreptitiously, without publishing any decree. It means further imprisonment without a trial.

No matter what will be concocted in the investigators' offices and propagated by our servile press, on this anniversary of shame for our state we proclaim:

Alexander Ginzburg, as manager of the Social Fund of help to political prisoners and their families, was selflessly and disinterestedly performing acts of kindness and humanity in our country. To this activity he dedicated all his strength and energy. The material help he dispensed saved hundreds of needy people (men, women and children) from misery and starvation. The moral support he gave them protected them from the despair of solitude and abandonment.

Alexander Ginzburg was one of the founders of the Helsinki Watch-group in the USSR and in this capacity he was fighting for our people's right to a normal human existence. He was fighting for those principles on which all your activity is based.

As long as Alexander Ginzburg is in jail, all such principles remain in the realm of wishful thinking. As long as Alexander Ginzburg is in jail, goodness and humanity are being defeated and trampled upon.

Are your principles going to be applied to reality, or is it going to be a hopeless defeat? To a very great extent - if not entirely - this will depend on you.

Today, on the anniversary of Alexander Ginzburg's arrest, we feel it is particularly necessary to remind you of this truth.

Moscow, February 3, 1978

Mal'va Landa
Vadim Borisov
Valeriy Smolkin
Sergey Moshkov
Vladimir Sirotkin
Eytan Finkelshtein
Evgeniy Nikolaev
Tyan Zaocnaya
Nikolay Ivanov
Alexandr Podrabinek
Natalia Fedorova
Irina Orlova
Vladimir Slepak

Viktor Elistratov
Grigoriy Rozenshtein
Leonard Ternovskiy
Priest Sergey Zheludkov
Sofia Kalistratova
Svetlana Pavlenkova
Vladlen Pavlenkov
Vitaliy Pomazov
Maria Petrenko
Viktor Nikipelov
Nina Komarova
Viktor Dzyadko
Valeriy Abramkin
Leonid Lozovskiy

Ekaterina Gaydamachuk
Mikhail Utevskiy
Vitaliy Gordeev
Yulia Zass
Yosif Dyadkin
V. Kornilov
L. Borodin
F. Svetov
Z. Krakhmal'nikova
Lev Koepelev
Viktor Kapitanchuk
Father Gleb Yakunin
Igor' Khoklushkin
Vladimir Voynovich

etc., totalling 200 signatures.

There are many thousands of us. We love freedom and we think freely. We belong to the All-Union Church of Faithful and Free Adventists of the Seventh Day. And we all know Alexandr Ginzburg. We also know the wild ruthlessness of our despotic state atheism. We have repeatedly experienced on ourselves its power aimed at the suppression and the final destruction of human integrity.

We know and we want to speak about it, not in a low whisper but as loud as we can, so that all the world can hear us. Alexandr Ginzburg's fate is, in fact, our own future fate as well as that of millions of others whose hearts are becoming overfilled and who will not be able to keep silent tomorrow.

Alexander Il'ich Ginzburg is a truly humane man. He is kind, generous, sensitive, understanding and full of respect for people. At the same time he is just and honest, firm and courageous, active and resolved. As a true Christian, he dedicated his life to helping people in need. He does not know selfishness. He always thought only of the others, those around him, and he wanted to live for them. He became a member of the Helsinki Watchroup because the responsibility connected with such an activity was according to his own heart. He was very active as distributor for the Fund of help to prisoners of conscience and their families. Many people know of this activity because Christian mercy was dispensed to them in their hour of need. When Alexander Ginzburg undertook this task, he was well aware of the KGB's reaction to such activity. But he did not hesitate and he did not retreat.

On February 3, 1977 Alexander was arrested for the third time. The reason for his arrest was his charitable work. He is being kept in the torture-chambers of Soviet prison while the authorities are busy preparing reprisal.

The KGB is trying hard to fabricate a false case in order to deal with Alexander Ginzburg and other people similar to him. Ginzburg's condemnation will be the condemnation of kindness, justice, humanity and mercy. It will be the condemnation of the very essence of humanity.

We appeal to the leaders of all peaceful world states, to all the signatories of the Helsinki Accords, to the participants of the Belgrade Conference, to the world legal organizations, to the world public opinion and to all people of good will: speak out in defense of Alexander Ginzburg and of all those who share his fate behind Soviet prison bars. Our government has signed a number of agreements and conventions. This is a basis for you to ask that a special commission be allowed to enter our country in order to investigate the most terrible crimes against humanity which have been committed here. You must ask for free admission to our country of foreign lawyers so that they may assist and defend Alexander Ginzburg, Yuri Orlov, Anatoliy Shcharanskiy and others.

Alexander Ginzburg and his family need your help and support now.

Moscow, February 2, 1978

for the Adventist Church
Rostislav Galetskiy

Today is the first anniversary of the arrest of Alexander Ginzburg, manager and distributor of the Russian Social Fund of help to political prisoners. In the name of the now acting Fund distributors we are going to provide you with some information about our activity.

As you know, the Fund was created by Alexander Solzhenitsyn when he donated to it all the royalties from his book the Gulag Archipelago. It was officially incorporated in 1974. Alexander Ginzburg became the Fund's first manager. Also in 1974, Dr. Andrey Sakharov created the Children's Fund which was meant to help political prisoners' children. Mrs. Elena Bonner Sakharov became the manager of this Fund. The Children's Fund existed on the means supplied by Dr. Sakharov who donated to it the money coming to him from the Cino del Duca award for humanitarian activities. It was closely connected, by all its activity, with the Russian Social Fund of help to political prisoners. In autumn 1977 the two Funds merged.

After Alexander Ginzburg's arrest, three people took over as the Russian Social Fund's distributors: Mal'va Landa, Kronid Lubarskiy and Tatyana Khodorovich. On May 31, 1977 Mal'va Landa was brought to trial on criminal offense charges and sentenced to exile in Siberia. Kronid Lubarskiy and Tatyana Khodorovich were forced into emigration in autumn 1977. After their departure, Irina Ginzburg and Sergey Khodorovich joined Mal'va Landa (who was and still is in exile) to work as the managers and distributors of the Fund. Mrs. Elena Bonner Sakharov is our permanent consultant.

The Russian Social Fund of help to political prisoners and their families continues to exist. There are difficulties, of course, but in spite of them those who need help receive it. When talking about the Fund and its activity, we must always remember that anything we say may be used against it: against those whom we help, against those who dispense help and against those who donate money to the Fund. This is the reason why we have to be very cautious in giving information on the Fund's work. We beg you to forgive us and hope you will understand.

The Fund helps people who have committed no crime, but have been imprisoned in forced labor camps, psychiatric hospitals or prisons, who have been sent into exile or are under surveillance by the authorities, for political or ideological reasons. The Fund also helps such persons' families, their young children.

The Fund's statute only approximately indicates the amounts of money which are to be given, so that in most cases we have to take our own decisions in accordance with the circumstances of each case. We try to refund to a political prisoner's family all the money which is spent to help the imprisoned relative, such as the cost of parcels sent to him, of trips to meet with him. The Fund pays 30 rubles a month for each child, for all the duration of imprisonment. After a prisoner's release the Fund gives him a one-time subsidy of 200 to 300 rubles.

But as a rule the amounts of money given depend on each particular family's situation and their need. To give you some idea of the scope of the Fund's activity, we can only say that there are hundreds of people whom we help.

To conclude, with a great feeling of pride for our fellow-countrymen we want to say that in addition to the monies mentioned above the Fund also receives donations from many people inside our country. Such donations oscillate from a few to several hundred rubles, and every month they end up by being quite a considerable amount of money. Also, there are many people who take part in the Fund's work in spite of the danger connected to such an activity. This makes us feel optimistic to a certain extent and we hope that our regime will not be able to prevent the Fund's activity.

February 2, 1978

signed Mal'va Landa
Sergey Khodorovich
Irina Ginzburg.



Statement by Maria Petrenko - Podypapol'skaya
(widow of dissident writer and poet Grigoriy Podypapol'skiy).

My friend Alexandr Ginzburg has been in jail for one year. None of us knows anything about him as the investigation is being conducted under total isolation. Nothing good is to be expected. We have to guess what he will be charged with from newspaper articles which, as usual, are published by the Soviet press before the charges are declared. Our experience is that such articles usually are a basis for the charges. In addition to that, we try to find some indications in the questionings of various people in connection with Ginzburg's case and in their descriptions of such questionings. What we thus learn is astoundingly absurd. It sounds like gossip, rather than collection of incriminating evidence.

The investigators must realize that, too, and that is the reason why the case has not been turned over to a court nor has a lawyer been admitted to examine the evidence. Our government must be aware of Attorney Williams' objectiveness since they requested him in the past to defend Soviet citizens in the United States. Our own lawyers are afraid to act as defense counsel for Ginzburg. Theirs is a difficult dilemma. If they don't satisfy those who want Ginzburg's conviction at any cost, they will ruin all their chances for a successful professional career. If they satisfy them, they lose the possibility to consider themselves decent people.

Thus I, as a friend of Alik, have to testify and tell about him to all those who are not indifferent to his fate and who want to know what sort of man he is. I shall speak both in my own name and in the name of my deceased husband, Grisha Podypapol'skiy.

We first learned to respect and appreciate Alik in the 60's, without actually knowing him, after his White Book (on the Sinyavsky-Daniel trial) was published and proved to us that we were not alone in our desire to be free, to have our own opinion and be able to defend it. Ginzburg was tried for the White Book and sentenced to five years of forced labor in "strict regime camps". My husband at that time wrote an angry protest letter to the General Prosecutor of the USSR asking that the judges who had condemned Ginzburg be put on trial. The value of what Ginzburg and his friends did at that time is truly immense. Many people awoke from their moral slumber after the reprisal against them had taken place. Over 500 people signed letters of protest. For many of them this was the beginning of their struggle in defense of human rights.

Alik's mother, Ludmila Ilyinichna Ginzburg, has become a very close friend of our family. As to Alik himself, we actually only met him after he had served his term. He was almost free: in Tarussa, under the surveillance of the eternal KGB. At that time my husband already was a member of the "Initiative Group" - such was the name of the first free association of human rights defenders which was founded in post-stalinist times and was being harassed and persecuted in every possible way.

We found Alik to be very kind, very good-natured and very sick. He spent the next five years (after his release) fighting for his right to be free, to provide for his family and to help other people in need. We were always deeply impressed by his endless kindness, by his willingness to listen and his ability to understand, to

encourage and to help all those who asked him for help, in word and in deed. And we used to feel even irritated by his constant refusal to think of himself. Almost all Gulag prisoners are sick people when they come out. This was true of Ginzburg, too. We were present several times when he had terrible, painful fits of ulcer and pancreas inflammation.

In 1974 he accepted a task not only immensely difficult, but at first glance impossible under our conditions. He became the distributor for the Solzhenitsyn charitable fund in Russia. Only those who have grown up and spent their lives here, in an atmosphere of endless taboos with respect to anything not stemming from the state administration, will be able to understand how fantastic any such charitable activity appears in the USSR and how dangerous it is for the benefactor. Not only his freedom, his very life is in danger, once he starts out on that path.

The Ginzburgs are a living proof thereof. Alik and Arina made of their home a haven for all those who suffer. Countless people came, and continue to come. Crowds of truly needy people, among whom there may be, from time to time, a greedy individual or a traitor. But the refuge still stands.

Alik is in jail. There is a heroic group of people managing the Fund in his place and dispensing mercy. Among them, first, his wife Arina.

Singling out Alik as a criminal is in itself a crime. Every village, every town and every state has its own saints. And I can responsibly affirm that Alik is one of them. I know that he is a pure, generous and entirely honorable man.

I would like to hope that governments and public opinion will not permit the destruction of an innocent.

February 2, 1978
Moscow

Maria Petrenko Podyapol'skaya
Moscow, Yartsevskaya 18 apt 27
telephone 141-66-09 (the
telephone has been disconnected).

Dr. Andrey Sakharov's appeal

Exactly a year ago, Alexander Ginzburg, manager of the Russian Social Fund of help to political prisoners and their families and member of the Helsinki Accords Watchgroup in the USSR, was arrested. He has two small children and is his old mother's only son. He is a kind and generous man, an active man, always compassionate and attentive to other people's sufferings. Our friend, our Alik.

He is still in a prison cell, under investigation, awaiting trial. None of his relatives and friends know what he is being charged with. So many things have happened since Ginzburg's arrest, and yet his imprisonment continues being for us a fact of the greatest importance, a highly alarming fact of which we think with invariable deep bitterness.

Ginzburg became known to the whole world ten years ago, when our country's intelligentsia launched a vast campaign to defend him and his companions against an unjust and harsh sentence. His friend, the poet Yuri Galanskov, who was sentenced during the same trial, perished in a forced labor camp. Over one thousand people at that time signed letters of protest in their defense, thus clearly demonstrating their attitude towards the repressive policy of our regime.

What Ginzburg is facing today is even more unjust and more cruel. His defense must be most energetic and worldwide. Ginzburg's arrest has been the beginning of a tide of political repression. Members of the Helsinki Watchgroup have been singled out particularly as victims of this repression.

Ginzburg's defense is at the same time the defense of all his companions and a fight against political repression as such.

Andrey Sakharov

February 2, 1978

To Attorney Edward Bennett Williams
counsel for Alexander Ginzburg.

Dear Mr. Williams,

I understand that you have agreed to act as defense counsel for my friend Alexander Ginzburg and I want to let you know briefly my opinion about him. I have known Ginzburg since 1975. On several occasions I have been asked to do certain things on behalf of the Russian Social Fund of help to political prisoners. For instance, in January 1976 I was requested by the Fund to visit political prisoners in Siberia. At present I am distributing the Fund's help to political prisoners in psychiatric hospitals. Working with the Fund I got well acquainted with Alexander Ginzburg.

Of all the people I know, he is the one who impressed me most deeply and most favorably. I have never met a more honest, noble and fine human being. His merciful activity of help to political prisoners and their families was disinterested, generous, self-dedicated and, alas, very dangerous for him; it deserves not merely praise, but deep veneration. There is no doubt but that he well understood the danger he was exposing himself and his family to, but this did not stop him. For his acts of mercy, he is already being punished in jail and he may well have to pay for it in ten years of imprisonment in forced labor camps and jails.

I know for certain that his example is at present a source of courage and inspiration for many honest people in our country. They would consider it an honor to be able to share with him at least part of all the torment and suffering the Soviet regime has in store for him.

I am willing and ready to state and confirm this opinion I have of Alexander Ginzburg in front of any objective court. If this statement can be of any use in defending Ginzburg, I beg you to use it.

February 2, 1978
Moscow

Respectfully yours

signed Alexander Podrabinek.

Translator's note: Alexander Podrabinek is a young medical assistant who was collecting documents on the use of psychiatry against dissidents in the Soviet Union. The KGB searched his room and confiscated a great number of evidence he had obtained and was preparing to publish. He is now under ruthless pressure by the KGB to force him to leave the country, which he does not want to do. The KGB told him that if he did not emigrate they would arrest his brother Kiril. Alexander refused to submit to such blackmail. Kiril has been arrested and is in jail at present.

To Attorney Edward Bennett Williams, Alexander Ginzburg's counsel,
from Valeriy Manuilovich Smolkin.

On November 28, 1977 I was summoned for questioning to the KALUGA office of the KGB in connection with Alexander Ginzburg's case. I did not obey the summons because for moral and ethic reasons I do not deem it possible to cooperate in any way with the KGB. A year ago they arrested my close friend Ginzburg and since then they have kept him behind bars simply because he has dedicated all his life to helping all the needy and suffering people. His help is entirely disinterested and he has committed no other "crimes". I want to stress that my friend Ginzburg chose for himself this path of Christian self-dedication in a perfectly natural and simple way, because he cannot live and behave otherwise. I am very fond of Alexander Ginzburg and thankful that fate brought us together. His life and his fate cannot be indifferent to me, just as his family's fate. I belong to those people who believe that Alexander Ginzburg should be released immediately in the name of justice and goodness, to those who are prepared to do everything for that purpose. Mr. Williams, if you need more detailed testimony about my friendly contacts with Alexander Ginzburg in Moscow and in Tarussa and about his personality, I am willing and prepared to let you have such testimony.

February 2, 1978
Moscow

Valeriy Smolkin
Vilnius, Raudonosnos Armies 247
apt. 27
Lithuania, USSR.

Translation

It is one year today from the pressconference which was held by Alexander Ginzburg on the eve of his arrest. He was the representative and distributor of the Russian Social Fund of help to political prisoners and their families. He was helping orphans and widows abandoned by everybody, giving them his attention and loving care. In his home, these people met with compassion and mercy, human kindness and warmth.

On February 3, 1977 Alexander Ginzburg was arrested. There are some strange customs in our country: because a man is kind and loves his fellow-men, he is thrown into a damp prison cell. Because he is honest and will not accept evil and violence, he is taken away from his friends, his wife and his two little sons.

In the name of prisoners of conscience, Evangelic Baptist Christians, in the name of Ukrainian political prisoners and their families, I want to deeply thank Alexander Ginzburg and his wife Arina Zholkovskaya who for the sake of humanity have taken upon their shoulders the heavy cross of suffering.

People of good will! Christians of all the world! Do not forget Alexander Ginzburg, his wife and their two little sons in your prayers. Their tragic fate is a true example of Christian self-dedication.

February 2, 1978

signed Petr Vins

Translator's note: Petr Vins is the son of George Vins, the well-known Baptist pastor serving a term in a Soviet labor camp.

Open letter from Alexander Ginzburg's mother.

I am addressing all people of good will in our country and abroad. My son Alexander Ginzburg has spent one year in the KGB's torture chambers. I know absolutely nothing about him. I don't know what his health condition is or how he is being treated.

I have lived sixty years under the Soviet regime and this long experience has made me wise. I know very well what terror means. They now call it stalinist terror. People kept disappearing around me. Later on they were rehabilitated, that is the state itself admitted that they had been innocent. All this gives me sufficient grounds for frightening prognoses.

Alik was sick when they arrested him, barely a week after his discharge from hospital. The diagnosis had been a very preoccupying one, they were talking about tubercular condition. His temperature would rise every day. Besides, his old ailments - stomach ulcer and inflammation of the pancreas - had again become acute. Both are a consequence of his term in the Vladimir prison.

You can well understand how terrible it is for us not to know anything about his physical condition for an entire year. All the thoughts that come to one's mind during endless sleepless nights and days full of anguish. Once a month we take a food parcel to the prison: ten pounds of food products allowed by the prison rules. We leave our parcel at the prison office window. That's all we can do. And hope that he will be given our parcel. We cannot be sure because we never get a message from him and they don't even show us his signature as confirmation of receipt.

For a long time, ten months, we had applied in vain for permission to send him some clothes and underwear. For ten months such permission had been denied. And so, of course, a terrible doubt would arise: IS HE STILL ALIVE? In November 1977 they allowed us to send him a pair of trousers and a shirt. But there is nothing to confirm that he has received them.

My daughter-in-law Arina does all she can possibly do. Her efforts are ceaseless but, alas, vain. My grandchildren, their children, are growing. Sanya is now 5, Alyosha is 3. They are beginning to understand many things. They are waiting for their father. And we all live only on hope. Justice must triumph.

We deeply trust in your help.

Ludmila Ginzburg

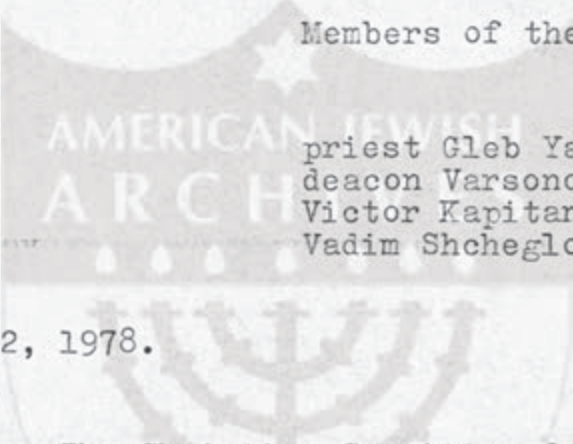
February 2, 1978.

Statement from the Christian Committee.

Today, one year after the arrest of Alexandr Ginzburg, we feel that all the members of the movement in defense of human rights in the Soviet Union owe him personal gratitude. He and our other friends (Yuri Orlov, Anatoliy Shcharanskiy) have sacrificed themselves and accepted to suffer for all of us, closing the barrels of the guns which were pointed at all of us.

The fact that we are free today and that we are still able to continue our activity to a great extent is Alexander Ginzburg's merit. The campaign in his defense which has started throughout the world is of great help not only to him, but also to us, those who are still free.

Members of the Christian Committee



priest Gleb Yakunin
deacon Varsonofiy Khaydulin
Victor Kapitanchuk
Vadim Shcheglov

Moscow, February 2, 1978.

Translator's note: The Christian Committee for the defense of religious rights was founded in the USSR in December 1976. It is, of course, considered illegal by the Soviet authorities and its members are subjected to constant harassment and persecution. It does not have any political goals. Though founded by members of the Russian Orthodox church, it is equally concerned with the interests and problems of all religious groups in the USSR.

To the public opinion of our country.

While the conference of review of the Helsinki accord implementation is going on in Belgrade, in our country persecution is continuing against the Helsinki Accords Watchgroups. These watchgroups were collecting data on concrete cases of human rights violations in our country in order to make them known to the world public opinion. This activity is fully in agreement with the Helsinki conclusive document which proclaims the defense of human rights an international concern.

At present, Mal'va Landa is in exile in Siberia, Mikola Rudenko and Oleksa Tikhy have been sentenced and are serving a long term in the forced labor camps of Mordovia. Most of the other group members are being prosecuted. Yuri Orlov, Alexander Ginzburg and Anatoliy Shcharanskiy have spent in jail already more than the maximum time allowed for pre-trial imprisonment by the Code of Criminal Procedure of the RSFSR. Their pre-trial imprisonment has been extended by special decrees of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, but both the text and the numbers of such decrees are secret. This extension is anti-constitutional: the amendment of the Code of Criminal Procedure in the case of single individuals violates the principle of all citizens' equality before the law as proclaimed by art. 156 of the new constitution of the USSR. This is yet another proof that the investigation is being conducted not to serve justice but to serve our regime. And this already is a brutal violation of human rights.

Thus, Yuri Orlov, Alexandr Ginzburg and Anatoliy Shcharanskiy have become the instruments of a political game: they are political hostages. They have spent over a year in jail under very hard physical and moral conditions.

Pre-trial imprisonment is particularly cruel because they are kept in isolation for many months, incommunicado, knowing nothing of their relatives, without any legal counsel and assistance, under pressure from the investigators who freely use lies and blackmail to break their will. They are underfed, deprived of medical aid and live in very difficult conditions. All this is a shameless violation of the presumption of innocence and it inevitably becomes a means of absolutely unlawful pressure against a person under investigation.

Independently on the future verdict of the court, every day of pre-trial imprisonment in a Soviet jail already is severe punishment.

We are friends, relatives and acquaintances of Yuriy Orlov, Alexander Ginzburg and Anatoliy Shcharanskiy and we request that they be released from prison immediately. We feel absolutely certain that their fate will be of the greatest importance not only to those close to them, but to all the citizens of our country.

91 signatures.

February 1978
Moscow.

To the Participants of the Belgrade Conference for the Review of the Helsinki Accords Implementation.

We are close relatives of Alexander Ginzburg, Yuri Orlov and Anatoliy Shcharanskiy. We are appealing to you who represent international public opinion because we are worried and anxious about our dear ones' fate.

We know that this problem has already been raised at the Belgrade conference. There has been no improvement, however; on the contrary, the period of pre-trial imprisonment has been extended by further six months, in violation of our own laws. Life in prison is no life anyway, but in addition to that our relatives are being subjected to the torture of uncertainty and arbitrariness.

Alexander Ginzburg is a member of the Helsinki Watchgroup and the distributor for the Fund of help to political prisoners and their families. He was arrested on February 3, 1977. The legal term of pre-trial imprisonment ended on November 3, 1977.

Yuriy Orlov is a professor, holds a doctor's degree in physics and mathematics, is a member of the Armenian Academy of Science, and the leader of the Helsinki Watchgroup. He was arrested on February 10, 1977. The legal period of pre-trial imprisonment ended on November 10, 1977.

Anatoliy Shcharanskiy is a mathematician, an active member of the Movement for the Jewish Emigration who tried to obtain the permit to emigrate to Israel since 1973. He is a member of the Helsinki Watchgroup. He was arrested on March 15, 1977. The legal period of pre-trial imprisonment ended on December 15, 1977.

These people never violated any Soviet law. They called on the Soviet government to fulfill international obligations which it had freely accepted and they asked for the support of other signatories of the Helsinki accords. Such acts are neither punishable nor punished in any civilized country of the world.

Even before their arrest they were being systematically persecuted and ostentatively watched by the KGB. Slandorous articles about them were published by the official press. Then came their arrest and complete isolation for 12 months. And already article 156 of the Soviet constitution has been violated with respect to them. This article states that all citizens are equal before the law and the courts. But article 97 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, which limits the period of pre-trial imprisonment to 9 months, no matter how long the investigation may take, is not applied to Ginzburg, Orlov and Shcharansky, who, therefore, are not equal to all the remaining citizens of the country. And although officials keep talking about a mysterious decree of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR extending the pre-trial investigation period, such an explanation is unacceptable because an extension of the legal time of imprisonment is equivalent to extra-judicial punishment. It is well known that the Supreme Soviet has no judicial powers.

Immediately after Ginzburg, Orlov and Shcharansky were arrested it became obvious that the investigation was conducted unfairly and unobjectively. They are all kept incommunicado, without counsel, and we know that witnesses are being questioned partially and under pressure. We know of many cases where witnesses have been threatened

with criminal prosecution if they do not testify as ordered. Three witnesses in Ginzburg's case (V. Uzlov, L. Borodin and S. Pavlenkova) have been tried and sentenced for their refusal to testify as ordered. There are other cases where witnesses are tempted by promises of an apartment or a good job; others, who have applied for emigration from our country, are promised a speedy emigration procedure if they do what the KGB asks them to.

As to the question of defense counsel, again our own laws are being violated. We cannot retain for their defense a lawyer of our choice because the defense counsel for our relatives must have a special authorization from the KGB and enjoy the secret police's confidence. We have tried in vain to retain Soviet lawyers to defend our relatives, but met with refusals with all sorts of explanations and excuses. Shcharansky's relatives approached 20 lawyers in vain; in Ginzburg's case, 15 lawyers refused to assist him. Many lawyers say: this is not a legal case, it is political and therefore we won't be able to help the defendant, but at the same time we will lose our jobs. And they remind us of what happened to Ginzburg's lawyers (back in 1967-1968) Boris Zolotukhin and M. Shtern-Aksel'bant, and others, who were punished, disbarred etc.

It has thus become clear to us that even if we do find a Soviet lawyer, there is very little that he can actually do. Foreign lawyers have agreed to defend our relatives and we have gratefully accepted their offers.

Edward Bennett Williams (US) has agreed to defend Alexander Ginzburg John McDonald (Great Britain) has agreed to defend Yuri Orlov. Laurent Rappaport (France) has agreed to defend A. Shcharanskiy.

However the KGB denies these foreign lawyers any possibility to work on the cases, without any explanation or justification of its denial. We have applied several times to the Prosecutor's Office and to the KGB in this connection and every time we were told that it is not possible to have foreign lawyers defend our relatives. No explanation has been offered. We were simply told: "This is an official answer, you must believe us". But we cannot believe them. We have no reason to believe them.

The investigation is biased. The period of pre-trial imprisonment has been extended by six months in violation of all existing laws. Next, there will be a trial - just as partial and biased?

In our opinion, all this is a blatant violation of laws and contempt of human rights on the part of a state which has signed the Helsinki accords and it cannot, therefore, be considered only this state's internal affair. And this is why we are appealing to you, asking you to help stop reprisal against our dear ones, reprisal which is already taking place now.

Respectfully

Alexander Ginzburg's wife - Irina Zholkovskaya

Yuri Orlov's wife - Irina Valitova

Anatoly Shcharansky's brother - Leonid Shcharansky

January 17, 1978

Opening day of the second session
of the Belgrade conference.

Members:

EDWARD ALBEE
Playwright

ROGER BALDWIN
Founder, American Civil Liberties Union

CLIVE BARNES
Drama and dance critic

PATRICIA BARNES
Dance critic

SAUL BELLOW
Author, Nobel prize winner

ROBERT BERNSTEIN
President, Random House Publishers

SOL CHAIKIN
Vice President, AFL-CIO

RAMSEY CLARK
Former Attorney General of the United States

SISTER DOROTHY DONNELLY
Past President, American Coalition of Nuns

CONGRESSMAN MILLICENT FENWICK

CONGRESSMAN JAMES J. FLORIO

SENIOR RABBI JOSHUA HABERMAN
Washington Hebrew Congregation

MICHAEL HARRINGTON
Author

FATHER THEODORE HESBURGH
President, Notre Dame University

TOWNSEND HOOPES
President, American Publishers' Association

IRVING HOWE
Author

RICHARD HOWARD
President, American Pen Club

SENATOR HENRY M. JACKSON

CONGRESSMAN JAMES M. JEFFORDS

WINTHROP KNOWLTON
President, Harper and Row Publishing House

MAYOR EDWARD KOCH

ROBERT KOTLOWITZ
Vice President, WNET, Channel 13

JILL KREMENTZ
Photographer

SENATOR PATRICK J. LEAHY

ROBERT MASSIE
Author

ARTHUR MILLER
Playwright

SENATOR PATRICK MOYNIHAN

EMANUEL MURAVCHIK
Executive Director, Jewish Labor Committee

LOUISE NEBELSON
Sculptress

HAROLD PRINCE
Theatre director & producer

REV. DAVID A. REDDING
Author

BAYARD RUSTIN
President, A. Randolph Institute

HARRISON SALISBURY
Author

RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER
President, Union of American Hebrew Congregations

ALBERT SHANKER
President, American Federation of Teachers

JEROME J. SHESTACK
President, International League for Human Rights

PAUL H. SHERRY
Publisher, Pilgrim Press

CONGRESSMAN PAUL SIMON

ALEXANDER SOLZHENITSYN
Author, Nobel prize winner

NATALIA SOLZHENITSYN
President, Russian Social Fund

HOWARD E. SPRAGG
Executive Vice President, United Church Board

ROGER W. STRAUS JR.
President, Farrar Straus & Giroux Publishing House

ROSE STYRON
Journalist

WILLIAM STYRON
Author

RABBI MARC H. TANNENBAUM
Director, American Jewish Committee, National Interreligious Affairs

TELFORD TAYLOR
Harvard Law School

KURT VONNEGUT
Author

EDWARD BENNETT WILLIAMS
Attorney

SIMON WIESENTHAL
Chairman, Jewish Documentation Center

LUDMILLA THORNE
Executive Secretary

ALEXANDER GINZBURG DEFENSE COMMITTEE

P.O. Box 3343
Grand Central Station
New York, N.Y. 10017
USA
Tel: (212) 826-6477



March 2, 1978

Ms. Ludmilla Thorne
Executive Secretary
Alexander Ginzburg Defense Committee
301 East 49th Street, Apt. 6C
New York, NY 10017

Dear Ms. Thorne:

I finally have your letter of February 17 in hand, and would be happy to add my name to those who have already joined your Committee in Mr. Ginzburg's behalf.

With warm good wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

February 21, 1978

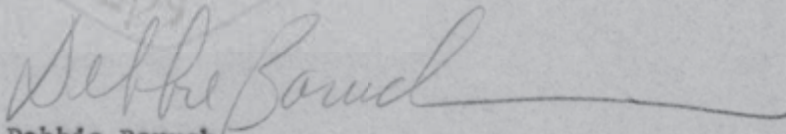
Ms. Ludmilla Thorne
Executive Secretary
Alexander Ginzburg Defense Committee
301 E. 49th St. - Apt. 6C
New York, New York 10017

Dear Ms. Thorne:

Your letter to Rabbi Schindler concerning the Alexander Ginzburg Defense Committee reached our offices today, following the rabbi's departure for Israel. On his return in early March, I will bring it to his attention.

Please accept this explanation in his absence. I am

Sincerely,



Debbie Baruch
Secretary to the President

February 17, 1978

Rabbi Alexander Schindler
836 Fifth Ave.
New York, N. Y. 10021

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

I am taking the liberty of writing you on behalf of the Alexander Ginzburg Defense Committee, which is now being formed with the hope of helping this fine human being, who has been incarcerated at Kaluga Prison for one year with no right to meet with members of his family, friends or legal counsel.

Prior to his arrest Ginzburg was both, a member of the Moscow Helsinki Watch Group and the executor of Alexander Solzhenitsyn's Russian Social Fund, which has provided material aid to hundreds of Soviet political prisoners of all religions and nationalities and their suffering families. One might say that Alexander Ginzburg was arrested for performing acts of charity.

Among those who have already joined the Committee are Mr. and Mrs. Solzhenitsyn, Mayor Koch, Roger Baldwin, Bayard Rustin, Simon Wiesenthal, Senators Moynihan and Jackson, Saul Bellow and a number of other outstanding American writers and publishers.

We would be most pleased if you would also consent to be a part of this group. We plan to print Committee stationery and appeal to both, Western and Soviet leaders on Alexander Ginzburg's behalf. On February 3rd, the first anniversary of his arrest we sent telegrams to President Carter, Mr. Goldberg and President Brezhnev.

Should you be able to join our Committee I know that Mrs. Solzhenitsyn will wish to follow up with a personal letter to you, expressing her appreciation.

Sincerely,

Ludmilla Thorne

Ludmilla Thorne
Executive-Secretary,
Alexander Ginzburg Defense Committee

301 East 49th St., Apt. 6C
New York, N. Y. 10017
Tel: (212) 826-6477

Call
Sov. Jewry conf. -
should AMS
join - Jerry
Goodman -
add name if OK.
Call Join