

LET OUR PEOPLE GO
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leaders, and that all who wish to maintain their traditions in their own way within the U.S.S.R. will not be prevented from practicing and expressing their religious and cultural identity."

The text of Mr. Abram's message follows:

"The Passover holiday, which celebrates the oldest recorded struggle for freedom, once again reminds American Jews of the blessing of our democracy and the plight of many of our less-fortunate co-religionists in other lands.

"In the United States, the American Jewish community continues to flourish in an ever-expanding, open and pluralistic society. However, in the Soviet Union the stifling restrictions of modern bondage is yet to be lifted from three million Soviet Jewish citizens. The limitations on the baking of matzoh for Passover is but one of the official tactics used in the campaign of cultural and religious deprivations. Despite some welcome improvements in the last two years, countless Jews in Russia will again be deprived of this ancient Passover symbol during the holiday.

"Last December, Pre-

mier Alexei Kosygin hinted at the possibility of an increased number of Soviet Jews being permitted to rejoin their families, scattered as the result of 20th century upheavals. While this promise in Paris was welcomed by men of good will, and was even published in the Soviet press, we have yet to see any positive implementation of his words. In fact, local authorities seem to have blocked many applicants, thus preventing the deed from following the promise.

"On many occasions, the AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE has protested discriminatory measures inflicted upon the Jews of the U.S.S.R. As we approach the Passover holiday this year, we pray that the aroused conscience of mankind will bear some weight with the Soviet leaders, and that all who wish to maintain their traditions in their own ways within the U.S.S.R. will not be prevented from practicing and expressing their religious and cultural identity."

Founded in 1906, the AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE is the pioneer human relations agency in this country. It protects the civil and religious rights of Jews here and abroad.

MORRIS ABRAM ATTACKED BY RUSSIAN DELEGATE

(NOTE: Morris B. Abram, U.S. delegate to the Human Rights Commission of the United Nations, was attacked by Yakub Ostrovski, his Soviet colleague, at the Geneva meeting of the Commission's agenda the item to set up a High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr. Abram asked to intervene on a point of order. Mr. Ostrovski berated him for interrupting, saying: "You may interrupt people at the American Jewish Committee but this is not a meeting of the American Jewish Committee." Mr. Abram is President of the AJC. Three weeks ago Mr. Ostrovski likewise had made reference to Mr. Abram's AJC connection but Mr. Abram chose to ignore it. This time he did not. Below is Mr. Abram's statement in answer to Mr. Ostrovski, along with some brief background notes on Mr. Ostrovski.)

"I deeply regret that my Soviet colleague has exceeded the normal standard of conduct here by twice making reference to my Jewish connection. I understand also that he has indulged in religious implications with respect to another member who is Jewish in the deliberations of a working party.

"I have many private connections with foundations, colleges and universities, one of them a Negro college, and numerous civil rights organizations and bar groups in the United States. The Soviet delegate, however, has now twice referred in caustic and sarcastic terms to my connection with the American Jewish Committee. Of that affiliation, as with all others--Jewish and non-Jewish--I am proud. The AJC is the world's oldest human rights organization, having been founded in 1906, to fight czarist anti-Semitism. And it struggles against all forms

all over the world when the book was issued by an organ of Soviet society.

"It is a disgrace that in this place, the Human Rights Commission, and at this session at which we have passed the historic Draft Convention for the Elimination of all Forms of Religious Intolerance, that the Soviet delegate should raise this crude implication.

"I am a man; but he would not refer to me as that, I am an American; he did not so identify me, I am honored to be the American Representative to this Commission; he said nothing of this. I am a Jew and President of the American Jewish Committee. This, he chose to mention in an obviously angry and polemical way. The choice of this one association to which the Soviet delegate has now twice referred shows what all mankind now knows--that deep prejudice which has been deplored by Communist parties in other states. I want it clearly understood that Communist parties in Poland, Rumania and elsewhere fight anti-Semitism, and there is no necessary connection between Communism and anti-Semitism. The manifestation of anti-Semitism is in the Soviet Union. The other Communist parties around the world were morally forced to condemn the Kichko book when it was published in the Soviet Union.

"The crude attitude of the Soviet delegate is now unmasked. His pious adherence to high principle to the contrary notwithstanding, the Soviet delegate has displayed his bias by his barely concealed and coded message here. I regret with all my heart that I was forced to make this statement. With all my heart, I wish it had not been necessary."

The Soviet delegate to the UN Commission on Human Rights has been known to express caustic anti-Jewish comments in the past:

1. In 1964, in debate at the Third Commission, the Israeli representative, Mr. Yapou, raised the issue of Soviet anti-Semitism. In a reply to the allegations, Mr. Ostrovski attacked Yapou's references and used "abusive language" against Jews in general.

2. During the 1965 session of the General Assembly Mr. Ostrovski discussed the question of U.S. arms being shipped to Egypt with a Jewish representative from a non-governmental organization. He asked him how come American Jews "who dominate the United States" permitted this to happen and thus threaten Israel!

3. On January 30, 1966, in a confrontation with a delegate to the United Nations who is Jewish, he said: "You Jews think you are a superior race and better than anyone else."

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