

## Seder Prayer

This Passover, as in recent years, Jews in America and throughout the free world are urged to remember the plight of their fellow Jews in the Soviet Union when observing the holiday, which commemorates the exodus from Egypt and the liberation of the Jewish people from oppression under the Pharaohs.

The remembrance is particularly timely this year in view of the recently stepped-up harassment of Jews by the Soviet regime and the extraordinary courage of Soviet Jews in demanding permission to leave the Soviet Union and go to Israel where they can live as Jews.

The American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry has published and is circulating a folder featuring a special prayer on behalf of Soviet Jewry, entitled "The Matzoh of Hope," to be added to the Seder service.

We believe it would be fitting -- and a service to the Jewish community served by your paper -- for you to publish the text of the prayer, with an appropriate explanatory note, in a pre-Passover edition.

### THE MATZOH OF HOPE

This matzoh, which we set aside as a symbol of hope for the three and a half million Jews of the Soviet Union, reminds us of the indestructible links that exist between us.

As we observe this festival of freedom, we know that Soviet Jews are not free -- not free to leave, not free to learn of their Jewish past or to hand it down to their children. They cannot learn the languages of their fathers.

They cannot teach their children to be the teachers, and the rabbis of future generations.

As they courageously assert their proud determination to live in Israel, we add our voices to theirs, and we shall be joined by all whose consciences are aroused by the wrongs inflicted on Soviet Jews. Thus shall they know that they have not been forgotten and they shall yet emerge into the light of freedom.

## SOVIET JEWS STAGE SIT IN

NEW YORK (WNS) --More than 100 Soviet Jews staged a sit-in in the reception room of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet in an attempt to force officials to take action on their emigration applications, according to reports reaching here. Some of the demonstrators threatened to go on a hunger strike. When Police arrived to clear the building several hours later they found the Jews reciting prayers in Hebrew. No arrests were reported.

This latest sit-in, coming three weeks before the opening of the 24th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, is an embarrassment to Soviet officials. Earlier sit-ins were reported at the Supreme Soviet by 24 to 30 Jews on February 26, and again on March 1. Twenty-four Jews staged a sit-in at the OVIR (visa) office in Riga on February 26.

Copies of a petition signed by 100 Jewish workers of Riga, demanding the right to emigrate and addressed to delegates to the 4th Congress, were

received at the offices of the American Jewish Committee here. The petition containing names, addresses and family size, said in part, "we consider ourselves an integral part of the Jewish people and we consider our spiri-

tual and historical Homeland, Israel, as our Homeland."

Jewish students here staged a 72 hour fast-vigil near the Soviet Mission to the UN on behalf of Soviet Jewry. Purim morning they attended services at the Park East Synagogue where they heard Leonid Rigerman, the Soviet

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Jew who was granted American citizenship, comment on the "enormity" of the action taken by Soviet Jews. "Even thoughts of making a demonstration in the Soviet Union could make a person disappear," he added.

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