

RESEARCH INSTITUTE ON SOVIET JEWRY TO HOUSE 80,000 RUSSIAN FAMILIES IN ISRAEL

RESEARCH INSTITUTE ON SOVIET JEWRY SAYS IT WILL PRESENT PLAN FOR ADOPTION AND HOUSING OF 80,000 SOVIET JEWISH FAMILIES IN ISRAEL AT NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOVIET JEWRY IN NEW YORK, N.Y.

NEW YORK, N.Y.--The Research Institute on Soviet Jewry will launch a nation-wide campaign to have the six million member American Jewish community adopt 80,000 Soviet Jewish families who have applied for permission to leave Russia and to raise the necessary funds to provide these families with complete housing units when they arrive in Israel.

Morris Brafman, chairman of the Institute and a delegate to the World conference of Jewish Communities on Soviet Jewry held in Brussels last February, said his group will present the family adoption and housing plan among several other proposals to a National Conference on Soviet Jewry scheduled for October 22nd-25th, 1971 at the New York Hilton Hotel, New York, New York.

The Institute chairman said the conference was called after consultation with Jewish Action Groups in 11 cities around the country "who have decided that the time is long past due for the creation of a national grass roots movement totally committed to the repatriation of three and a half million Russian Jews and their successful resettlement in Israel. "This conference," he added, "will be the first attempt to break the deadly five month period of silence and inaction on the Soviet Jewish question that has ensued since Brussels. We will attempt to put into effect the resolutions of five special study commissions at Brussels including one calling for the creation of a permanent international secretariat charged with negotiating with the USSR for the orderly, peaceful evacuation of every Russian Jew who has expressed the desire to go home."

Mr. Brafman said the forthcoming New York Conference will be a unique event in American Jewish history. "Its participants," he declared, "will embrace the entire spectrum of Jewish political and social thought from the far left to the far right, from the establishment to the anti-establishment, from writers, scientists and intellectuals to neighborhood community groups and the man in the street. No sector of Jewish opinion, no constituency will be without



CHARLES SILBERMAN, NOTED AUTHOR-EDUCATOR, URGED HADASSAH TO INCREASE ITS EDUCATIONAL ALLOCATION IN ISRAEL BECAUSE "NEXT TO DEFENSE, EDUCATION IS THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR IN ATTAINING DOMESTIC PEACE IN ISRAEL BY INTEGRATING THE TWO ISRAELS -- THE WESTERN AND ORIENTAL JEWS." MRS. BENJAMIN GOTTESMAN (LEFT), HADASSAH ISRAEL EDUCATION SERVICES CHAIRMAN, POINTED OUT HADASSAH'S INNOVATIVE ROLE -- PIONEERING VOCATIONAL TRAINING, GUIDANCE AND TESTING PROGRAMS, AND THIS YEAR, INTRODUCING THE FIRST 2-YEAR COMMUNITY COLLEGE. DR. HELEN KITTNER, HEAD OF HADASSAH'S EDUCATIONAL COMPLEX IN JERUSALEM, REPORTED ON ORIENTAL AND IMMIGRANT STUDENTS FROM EASTERN EUROPE AT THE HADASSAH COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

representation at this conference," the Institute chairman added. "And whatever their differences on other social, political, economic and cultural issues, these people will close ranks as one man in a movement of national unity for the repatriation of Soviet Jews for whom Israel represents the sole remaining hope of survival as a people."

The Research Institute in a statement on the forthcoming conference noted that "we have no mandate to organize a grass roots movement on this issue. That movement already exists. This conference will merely give de jure recognition to that fact and attempt to provide the direction and leadership that the American Jewish organizational establishment has thus far failed to provide."

The housing issue, the Institute observed, has already become a flashpoint in the relations between recent Russian Jewish arrivals to Israel and the population at large. In an essay entitled "An End To Bankruptcy," the conference sponsors declared: "must the entire world be witness to the spectacle of a Sephardic family of 11 forcibly occupying an apartment designated for Russian Jews? Is there no room in the collective imagination of 28 national Jewish organizations for a master plan that would provide decent living accommodations both for that Sephardic family which has had its fill of second class citizenship and that Soviet Jewish family which is getting its first introduction to citizenship?"

The Research Institute asserted that the New York conference will give critical priority to the formulation of a long range blueprint to create "the housing, the jobs, the schools,

the reception centers, the hospitals, the clinics, the adult education centers - the entire massive complex of services and facilities that will be necessary for Israel to absorb Russian Jews in large numbers in the event of a sudden change in Soviet policy toward Jewish repatriation." In Israel's present state of unpreparedness, the conference sponsors declared, such an eventuality would prove a social and economic disaster for Israel and a heart-breaking disillusionment for the incoming masses of Russian Jews.

"For the first time," the conference sponsors noted, "We will be coming together in New York to act as a free people in advance of crisis rather than to react to a tragedy already upon us. We will create a national movement devoted solely and exclusively to Russian Jewry, beholden to none and independent of all, with the imagination to forge a blueprint for Soviet Jewish survival and the courage to go directly to the six million Jews of the United States and demand its implementation."

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Voice of America

(Continued from page 1) demonstrating the concern of Americans about their plight. VOA's communication with its Soviet listening audience regarding Jewish affairs should be intelligible, effective and helpful for the situation of Jews in the USSR."

In his letter to President Nixon, Mr. Maslow included a table of geographic distribution of Jews in the Soviet Union showing that the vast majority could be reached by technically feasible means.

Moreover, he told the President, the issue raised points "not reflected by bare-bone statistics and slide-rule computations." Mr. Maslow declared:

"The institution of VOA Yiddish broadcasting to the Soviet Union would have a tremendous symbolic value for Soviet Jewry. It would make America's concern over the rights and the future of Soviet Jewry explicit.

"It would also facilitate the younger generation's effort to learn Yiddish without the schools or textbooks denied them by the

Soviet government."

Citing the President's commitment to "the traditional American regard for the rights of refugees," Mr. Maslow had written:

"I suggest that hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews are indeed refugees physically prevented from achieving that status.

"Yiddish broadcasting to Soviet Jewry -- conducted, of course, within the bounds of international propriety and good sense -- would provide hope and encouragement to these people and dramatically reflect the concern of the Government of the United States with their welfare."

Mr. Maslow said the American Jewish Congress delegation to the Sept. 14 meeting with State Department and Voice of America officials would include Sol Baker of Boston, chairman, and Hester Beckman of Philadelphia, co-chairman, of the Congress' national Committee on Soviet Jewry, and Phil Baum, assistant executive director of the Congress and director of its Commission on International Affairs.