

SYLVA ZALMANSON IN U.S.

NEW YORK (WNS) -- Sylva Zalmanson, whose struggle for freedom has made her "the symbol" of Soviet Jewry's fight for emigration, has arrived in the United States for a three-week tour of the country to help spur national efforts to secure freedom for nearly 40 Jewish "prisoners of conscience" in Soviet jails and labor camps.



SYLVA

Miss Zalmanson, who was freed last August after serving four of her 10-year sentence, was welcomed at City Hall by Mayor Abraham Beame and more than 100 Jewish community leaders and activists on behalf of Soviet Jewry. Beame noted that her "heroic struggle to reach Israel typifies the plight of many Jews in the USSR who have been imprisoned solely for the 'crime' of wishing to emigrate to that nation."

Miss Zalmanson, visibly moved by the warm reception, thanked the mayor and all those who fought for her freedom. Speaking

Later in an interview Miss Zalmanson stressed that only strict monitoring by the American government will ensure Soviet compliance with the agreement. She said she hoped her release was not just a "symbolic bone thrown to the West" to quiet international clamor. She said the "Prisoners of Conscience" should get top priority in the struggle for Soviet Jewry since they were in danger of their lives.

Miss Zalmanson's husband, Edward Kuznetsov and her two brothers, Vulf and Israel are still in labor camps.

in Russian, she said that the letters and news of the efforts here are a great encouragement to the imprisoned and harassed Jews in the Soviet Union.

Eugene Gold, chairman of the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry, urged the gathering to intensify the struggle for Soviet Jewry on this "historic moment" when the Soviets and the U.S. have reached an agreement on emigration.

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