

USSR STATISTICS ON EMIGRATION

UNITED NATIONS (WUP) -- In an apparent attempt to win Congressional support on the issue of the 'most-favored-nation' status which has been held up over the question of emigration -- the Soviet Union this week released a statistical document on the number of Jews who have left the USSR in the "last 30 years up until June 1, 1975."

During that period, the document states, "a total of 115,000 citizens of Jewish nationality emigrated from the Soviet Union to Israel (and to Palestine prior to the formation of Israel). This is about 5 per cent of the aggregate number of Jews living in the USSR -- according to the national census, they numbered 2,151,000 on January 1, 1970."

Entitled, "Zionist Hope Falls Through: There was no Exodus nor will there be any," the document claims that "after October 1973 -- the period of the last military events in the Middle East -- the number of applications from Soviet Jews to leave for Israel has diminished by almost two-thirds in 1973, up

till September, the monthly average of such applications was 2,200 - 2,300, whereas it is now 850. About 16,000 people of Jewish nationality left the USSR for Israel in 1974. This is half the number which left in 1973. The appropriate Soviet bodies had only 1,400 applications to examine on July 1, 1975."

It goes on to note that "applications have stopped coming in altogether from 18 Republics and

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regions, including Volyn, Zaporshye, Cherkassy, Grodno and Minsk regions, where a considerable number of Jewish people live. There are no applications from Kirghiz, Tajik and Turkman Republics. Not a single Jew in the Jewish autonomous region has expressed the desire to leave for Israel."

The document, issued by the Soviet Mission here at the UN, contends that "people of Jewish nationality who have turned in applications and have received per-

mission to leave, are ever more frequently refusing to take advantage of this."

Then, in what appears as a clear message for the US Congress, it says that "it should be noted the negative decisions concerning the emigration to Israel are not of a final nature: in time they can be re-examined, and they are re-examined with the applicants usually receiving permission to leave."

However, the document makes it a

point to note that "permission to emigrate is refused only those who are a national security risk and who have recently gone through military training in the Soviet Union in most important military specialties as well as those who are serving sentences for previously committed criminal offenses."

"Criminal offenses?" The whole world knows that any Soviet Jew who expresses pro-Zionist views or who is found

with Zionist literature is considered a "criminal."

It is high time the USSR leadership should realize that Zionism is the Jewish people's liberation movement. Indeed, the Kremlin knows this only too well, but, in deference to the Arabs, does not want to admit it.

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