

**LET MY PEOPLE GO**  
(Continued from Page 1)

Foreign Relations Committee, called on the U.S. government to support the cause of Soviet Jews with all its available diplomatic and political means. Church, who headed a delegation of about a dozen Congressmen, declared: "I believe the Soviet Jews have a right not just a privilege to leave to Soviet Union, to live as Jews unhampered and not subject to discrimination. When I come here to affirm that Israel lives not by sufferance but by right, I stand not on alien ground but in the great tradition of Western democracies." Church at a press conference took issue with Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D. Wash) who sent a message to Brussels that "we shall not retreat" from the Jackson Amendment linking U.S. trade benefits for the USSR with Soviet emigration policies. Church, who supported the Jackson Amendment, said that it resulted "in fewer Jews being allowed to leave; practically, we have thus lost ground." Church said U.S. support for Soviet Jews should be based on moral pressure being brought to bear on the Soviet Union.

Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin in a message to the conference said that "The present leadership in the Soviet Union has taken the first appropriate steps by recognizing in principle the right of Jews who so wish to emigrate to Israel." However, he said, "We will not reconcile ourselves to the continuing policy of intimidation and suffering inflicted on very many who seek permission to emigrate, so as to intimidate others from emigration. We, the Jewish people, will forever stand firm in our support of the religious and national rights of our Soviet Jewish brethren." Yosef Almogi, chairman of the World Zionist Organization Executive and acting chairman of the Jewish Agency, who headed the Israeli delegation, promised that Israel and the Jewish people will do all in their power to further and facilitate the integration of Soviet Jewish immigrants in Israel. Claude Kellman, of France, president of the Council of Europe, pledged to Soviet Jews: "Your cause will be our cause and your struggle our struggle." Nissim Gaon, president of the World Sephardi

Federation, stressed that all Jews, whatever their origin are united in the struggle for Soviet Jewry.

The delegates to the conference included 350 American Jews and non-Jews. Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, urged both an international drive to permit the free emigration of Soviet Jews and a call to the USSR to allow the revival and revitalization of religious and cultural life for those Jews who wish to remain in the Soviet Union. He said the latter could not be done unless the Soviet government permitted Western Jewish scholars and teachers to come to the USSR to help create new centers for training rabbis, educators and teachers to assure the survival of Soviet Jewry.

Philip M. Klutznick, of Chicago, chairman of the governing board of the World Jewish Congress, called on the leaders of the Soviet Union "to fulfill the obligations they have undertaken in the field of human rights and to restore these words to their full significance for the Jews of that country." Klutznick, a former United States Ambassador to the United Nations, said that he accepted the idea of detente but did not feel inhibited about judging the USSR on its dealing with its Jewish minority. But he urged restraint in dealing with the issue by Jews outside the USSR. "The case against the Soviet Union for its failure to accord equality to its Jewish citizens is strong enough; it should not be distorted by those who condemn without knowledge or speak without understanding." He criticized those who compared the Soviet Union with Nazi Germany, noting that Nazi Germany did not want Jews at any price; Soviet Russia seems to want them no matter what price." He urged the USSR to give Jews "the rights enjoyed by a Russian Orthodox, a Baptist or a Moslem in the Soviet Union."

Former Premier Golda Meir, who was honorary president of the Brussels Conference, told a press conference that the Soviet policy toward Jews was irrational since she could not understand why the USSR allowed the Jewish question to turn into an international issue. Mrs. Meir said she believed that appeals to public opinion

worked. "When I hear people saying that this (conference) provokes cold war, I cannot help wondering what warm peace is like," she said. She stressed, however, that the conference "is not directed against the Soviet Union, or anyone else. It is directed towards and for the benefit of Jews." She added that "What we want is to have the Russian Jews given the possibility to leave and to return to their country."

About 550 Soviet Jews, now living in Israel attended the conference. The conference opened with 35 Soviet Jews, led by former Red Army Maj Grisha Feigin marching in waving a blue flag with a gold Star of David which Feigin said was the flag of Soviet Jewry. He presented it to Mrs. Meir. A group of Soviet Jews, who recently left the Soviet Union, told a press conference that conditions have worsened in the USSR, anti-Semitism is increasing and the authorities are cracking down harder than ever before on would-be emigrants.

Christian delegates to the conference from the United States, Britain, Ireland, France, Belgium, Holland, Switzerland and Israel issue a "Call to Conscience" urging the Soviet Union to end the harassment and intimidation of people seeking to emigrate; the conscription of Jewish young men into the armed forces as punishment for seeking exit visas; the "kidnapping" of Jewish children; the sentencing of innocent persons on false charges, the deprivation of employment for those applying for exit visas and the "ruthless and brutal imprisonment of all Prisoners of Conscience both Jewish and Christian." The Christian group also urged that Jews be allowed to emigrate and urged the USSR "to grant religious, cultural, and educational institutions for the perpetuation of Judaism and Jewish culture."

**KISSINGER BLAMES CONGRESS FOR IMMIGRATION DROP**

WASH. (WNS) Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger has charged that Congressional action in adopting legislation in the Trade Act of 1974 and the U.S. Export-Import Bank Law that linked U.S. trade benefits to the Soviet Union to Soviet emigration policy has caused a drop in emigration.

Speaking in San Francisco at a meeting of the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco and the World Affairs Council of Northern California, Kissinger said: "The human rights issue is a matter of deep and legitimate concern to all Americans. But the Congressional attempt to link it openly with economic relations without subtlety or understanding of Soviet politics, both deprived us of economic levers and sharply reduced Soviet emigration. Other industrial countries have stepped in to provide credit and technology with less concern for the objective of inducing political restraint which we had envisioned."

But in New York Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D. Wash.) in an address to the Queens Council on Soviet Jewry, said he will "never retreat" from his efforts to promote free emigration from the USSR and other East Euro-

pean countries. "If we back down on the Jackson Amendment now, we lose all right to call ourselves the leaders of the free world," he said. Jackson declared that "tens of thousands" of Jews and non-Jews "escaped from captivity because of the Jackson Amendment." He said it was only after Kissinger "pledged that the Administration would destroy the amendment that the Kremlin tightened the screws once again."

**RUSSIA DOUBLE DEALS VISAS FOR JEWS**

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- The Soviet Union was charged here with deliberately issuing exit visas to Jews who had no intention of going to Israel in order to prove that Soviet Jews seeking to emigrate had no interest in Israel.

The charge was made in a radio interview by Pinhas Sapir, chairman of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization Executives. Sapir said the Soviets are continuing to harass and

**Young Russian Jews Learn Their Heritage**

LIBERTY, N.Y. (UPI) — They came from such places as Leningrad, Tashkent, and Nalchik: nearly 100 young Russian Jews seeking knowledge of their heritage at a summer camp near a village appropriately named Liberty.

For many, it's their first taste of traditional Judaism without the fear of unofficial discrimination that led their parents to immigrate to the United States.

"In Russia I knew I was Jewish, but I didn't know what it meant," Alex Weiss, 17, a gangly redhead from Tashkent, said in halting English. "At first this was hard—so much to learn—but the teachers are patient."

Run entirely by other recently arrived Russian immigrants, the program is part of Camp Gan Israel, which literally means "Garden of Israel," located on some 70 acres of rolling hills and forests near Liberty, N.Y., in the Catskill Mountain region.

"Very, very few of the Russian campers are Orthodox," camp director Rabbi Abraham Shemtov said. "Many had knowledge of their heritage from their parents but for some this is their first contact with Judaism."

The program combines courses in English, Hebrew and

theology with a full athletic program which includes swimming in two large pools, softball, tennis, arts and crafts and—since the Russian program began four years ago—an ever increasing interest in soccer and chess.

Camp Gan Israel is run by the Labovitch Hassidic movement, an international organization of highly Orthodox Jews formed amid Czarist persecution 200 years ago in the tiny Russian village of Labovitch. Labovitch means "City of Brotherly Love."

"We're celebrating that bicentennial too," Rabbi Shemtov said with a chuckle as he stroked his full-length red beard. "And please, don't call us a sect; there is too much sects around."

Besides the special Russian program for boys ages five through 20, Camp Gan Israel has campers from Korea, Mexico, Venezuela, Italy, France and the United States.

"The younger campers, five to 10 years old, are fully integrated in bunks with American children because language and cultural differences are easily overcome at that age," Rabbi Shemtov said. "The boys 10 through 12 are semi-integrated in bunks but have separate programs while

the older boys have their own bunks and programs."

The Russian boys speak little English, and when Grisha and Vova Tomarkin, 10-year old twins from Leningrad, were interrupted during a hockey game and asked what aspect of the religious camp they enjoyed the most, both replied "swimming." And what about religious training? "That, too."

Despite the light-hearted atmosphere in the camp, Rabbi Shemtov cautiously asked each camper whether he still had family in the Soviet Union before a reporter was allowed to use the camper's name.

Rabbi Shemtov was also reticent about Labovitch efforts to help Jews still in the Soviet Union get out or about efforts to attend to the "spiritual" needs of widely separated Jewish communities.

When the Soviet government sharply restricted the printing of prayer books and Bibles and the baking of Passover Matzah, many Labovitch members risked jail by smuggling prayer books and baking matzah underground.

"We prefer not to comment on this because we believe in silent diplomacy," Rabbi Shemtov said quietly. "This is a situation where those who talk do not know and those who know do not talk."

**RIFT BETWEEN EGYPT, U.S.S.R. A DECEPTION**

NEW YORK (WNS) -- Prof. Uri Ra'an, of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, has challenged the belief that there has been a fundamental breach between Egypt and the Soviet Union.

Speaking at the National Committee on American Foreign Policy's symposium on "The Middle East -- Critical Choices for America," Ra'an said that recent statements by Egyptian leaders in Arabic revealed that the so-called expulsion of Soviet experts from Egypt in 1972 was "a deception ploy" by Cairo, Damascus and Moscow to make the West believe Egypt was incapable of going to war. He said the same tactics are now being used by Egypt.

Ra'an, a Sovietologist, said that Egypt could not shift to reliance on military supplies from the West because it would take 20 years to institute the changeover from Soviet to Western arms.

**ISRAELITE ADS PAY**