

CONCERN OVER HEALTH OF SHCHARANSKY

NEW YORK (WNS) -- The State Department has been asked to seek clarification from the Soviet government on the physical health of Prisoner of Conscience Anatoly Shcharansky who is reportedly in a prison hospital after suffering a serious fall in September. The request was made in a telegram to Secretary of State Edmund Muskie from Burton Levinson, chairman of the National Conference on

Soviet Jewry. (NCSJ). "Concern is mounting over the physical health and security of Anatoly Shcharansky based on reports from his mother," Levinson said. "We urge that all available channels be utilized to clarify negative reports of his health and to insure his well-being." Newspapers have reported that Shcharansky wrote his mother, Ida Milgrom, that he suffered a fall September 23 that left him unconscious.

Since then he was experiencing back and stomach pains and was receiving antibiotics in the prison hospital. But the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry said that reports from the Soviet Union which reached the International Committee for Anatoly Shcharansky, headed by Rep. Robert Drinan (D. Mass.), said Shcharansky had suddenly collapsed while at work in the Perm labor camp and was taken to the camp's hospital, a move usually reserved only for inmates who are quite ill. The SSSJ also reported that a film "Lies and Hatred," which attacked Shcharansky and his wife, Avital, was shown on Soviet television.

URGE STRIPPING OF U.S. CITIZENSHIP

WASH. (WNS) -- U.S. Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti, in his first appearance before the U.S. Supreme Court since taking office, urged that Feodor Federenko be stripped of his citizenship because he failed to disclose his Nazi past when he arrived in the U.S. in 1949 and later when he applied for U.S. citizenship in 1970.

It is believed to be the first time that a case involving an

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alleged Nazi war criminal has reached the Supreme Court and the first time a U.S. Attorney General has taken part in arguing such a case. Federenko, who was born in the Ukraine in 1907, was charged by the U.S. government with having been an armed guard at the Treblinka concentration camp in 1942-43 where he participated in beating and shooting Jewish inmates. The Federal District Court in Miami ruled against

depriving him of citizenship on the grounds that the government had not presented adequate evidence.

The defense argued that Federenko's service at the camp was involuntary. The U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in June 1979 over-ruled the District Court and ordered Federenko's denaturalization, against which he is now appealing to the Supreme Court. The court is expected to make a decision by the end of its term in June.

HIAS PREDICTS UPSWING IN JEWISH EMIGRATION

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- An increase in Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union was predicted here by Gaynor Jacobson, executive vice president of HIAS. Addressing a closed-door session of HIAS "specialists Conference" he said U.S. government sources believe that Soviet emigration will rise in the next months. Jacobson said the low figure for July and August were probably due to the Olympic Games in Moscow. September figures were approximately double that of August, he noted, and "reliable sources" believe that the Soviets want to make a better showing on Jewish emigration in advance of the Madrid conference on human rights in November and December.


The Madrid conference is a followup of the Helsinki accords on human rights.

Rafael Kotlowitz, chairman of the aliya department of the Jewish Agency, urged HIAS to provide its services only to those emigrants with first degree relatives already in the U.S.

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