

200 SOVIET JEWS FAST

NEW YORK (WNS) -- As 33 European countries, the United States and Canada began meeting in Madrid to review the 1975 Helsinki Accords, nearly 200 Jews in the Soviet Union began a three-day hunger strike to protest the continuing refusal of Soviet authorities to allow them to reunite with their families in Israel.

The National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ) said that 84 Jews are fasting in Moscow, 28 in Leningrad, 27 in Riga, 15 in Kiev, 7 in Kishinev, 10 in Khar'kov and 2 in Tblisi. In Moscow more than 100 refusniks also gathered at the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet to deliver a petition to President Leonid Brezhnev signed by 268 Jews from Moscow, Leningrad, Riga, Kishinev and elsewhere, including those on the hunger strike.

The petition accused the Soviet Union of violating the emigration agreements of the Helsinki Accords. "Our

countless appeals and applications are simply ignored," the petition said. "Many of us haven't been able to get any response to requests. Very often the reason for rejection is not cited."

The Madrid conference opened with only the delegations making opening statements. An agenda and timetable could not be agreed upon because of the efforts by the Soviet Union to limit discussion on its violation of human rights and the invasion of Afghanistan. In Washington, the State Department expressed the "hope that the Soviet Union will ultimately join a reasonable compromise which will allow the Helsinki Commission to go forward with the whole implementation review that has been envisaged by all of its members."

Meanwhile, Soviet Jewish activists have converged in Madrid to launch an intensive campaign on behalf of Soviet Jewry

the 12-week conference. Most are connected with the Brussels Conference on Soviet Jewry. But other groups are in Madrid too including the Union of Councils for Soviet Jewry which has set up the Robert Drinan Information Center in Madrid named for Rep. Robert Drinan (D.Mass.) only the delegations a Catholic priest and human rights activist. The Jewish groups have paid tribute to the efforts of Max Kampelman, the Washington lawyer, who heads the U.S. delegation.

WATCH REAGAN'S APPOINTMENTS!

DETROIT (WNS) -- The most important aspect of the incoming Administration of President-elect Ronald Reagan will be the kind of foreign policy advisors he chooses," Max Fisher, the noted Jewish communal leader and chairman of the Board of Governors of the Jewish Agency, told the American Jewish Press Associa-

tion here. "I hope Dick (Richard) Allen will be the foreign policy advisor," Fisher said.

Allen, who is considered a close supporter of Israel left the Reagan campaign in the last week be-

cause of newspaper articles charging he had been involved in some financial irregularities.

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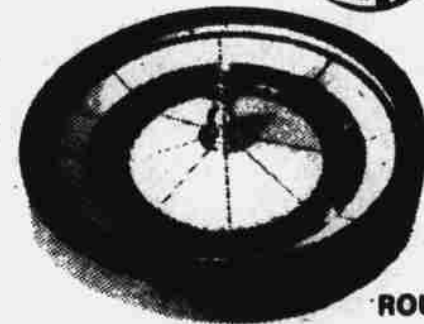
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