

Separated Families Urge Andropov

NEW YORK — The National Conference on Soviet Jewry has just learned that eighty-four Soviet Jewish families now living in Israel sent an open letter to Soviet leader Yuri V. Andropov urging him to let their loved ones emigrate to Israel.

The letter, from "parents, mothers, fathers, grandfathers and grandmothers," many of whom have been separated from their children and grandchildren for almost a decade, stated that "we are firmly convinced that there is no law in the civil code of your country according to which children have to struggle for dozens of years for the realization of their most elementary right -- to be sources of joy and support for their parents."

Appealing to Andropov on humane grounds and quoting from the Soviet Constitution, the letter listed the signators' addresses in Israel, their relatives in the Soviet Union and the number of years they have been separated. Copies of the letter were sent to Rudolf Kuznetsov, head of the Soviet Office of Visas and Registration, newspaper editors around the world, and "press centers of public and international organization."

Letter to U. N.

A similar letter, refuting claims made by a Soviet Anti-Zionist Committee that no more Jews wish to leave the USSR and signed by nine relatives of long-term refuseniks, was sent to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuelar, and U. S. Ambassador Jeanne Kirkpatrick.

The letter from "relatives of Jews who have been . . . repeatedly refused" permission to emigrate by Soviet authorities, represents "thousands of people who live in Israel and are in a similar position." It stressed that "the agony of separation and the suffering of our relatives are a living testimony to the falseness of the (Anti-Zionist Committee) allegations, which dealt a cruel blow to our hopes."

The National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ) is the central coordinating agency for policy and action in this country on behalf of more than two million Jews in the Soviet Union.

Bond Between Israel and Druze Community Appears Threatened

JERUSALEM (WNS) — Israel's long standing "blood bond" with its Druze population appeared to be threatened because of the fighting between Druze and Christians in

Lebanon. Young leaders of Israel's Druze community warned that this might happen because of the Israel army's alleged failure to protect Lebanese Druze.

The Druze, a non-Arab Moslem group, have always been loyal to the Israeli state, serve in the army and hold positions in government. But that relationship became strained since Israel's invasion of Lebanon in June 1982, and particularly since fighting broke out between Israel-backed Christian Phalangists and Druze villagers in the Israel-occupied Shouf mountains.

Druze speakers at a press conference here July 19 said hundreds of Israeli Druze wanted to desert to Lebanon to help their brethren who, they said, were facing annihilation. Zeidon Atachi, a former information officer at an Israel consulate in the U.S., and Sa'id Halabi demanded that Israel

get the Phalangists out of the Shouf mountains, open the roads to Druze villages, return the villagers' weapons, and pay reparations for Druze orchards and vehicles damaged in recent weeks.

They also demanded an inquiry into the "Treatment of the Lebanese Druze by various security branches" of the Israeli forces in Lebanon. Reporters were told that Druze officers serving in Lebanon were invited to resign two months ago if Israeli policies conflicting with their loyalty to their druze brethren in Lebanon. The officers were told

that Israel was about to organize a Christian Lebanese army headed by Maj. Saad Haddad.

Bat Mitzvah at Temple Beth Sholom



Lisa Brown, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Jay Brown, was called to the Torah and became a Bat Mitzvah during services at Temple Beth Sholom, 1600 E. Oakey Blvd., on Saturday morning, July 23, 1983.

Rabbi Louis Lederman officiated and conducted the services. Cantor Simon Bergman chanted the liturgy.

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