

Letter From Shcharansky

NEW YORK — A letter from Soviet Jewish Prisoner of Conscience Anatoly Shcharansky reveals his strong spirit and intellect, despite his poor health and the harsh conditions of his imprisonment, according to excerpts received by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ). The letter was sent to his mother, Ida Milgrom, on March 14.

"The situation one finds oneself in here," Shcharansky writes, "provides one with a wonderful opportunity to become the real master of one's destiny, and to feel these great privileges a man is granted by the feeling of inner freedom and independence from the chaos outside." His insight continues, the NCSJ reported, with a discussion of Future Shock, by American sociologist Alvin Toffler. Shcharansky observes: "if man will not be able to attain spiritual independence from this race for the future, or perhaps from his own self, a catastrophe is imminent."

Describing his heart ailment with what NCSJ Chairman Morris Abram characterized as a calm manner and a sense of humor, Shcharansky notes that "The last issue of Zdorovie (Health) Magazine—just don't think I take it seriously—had an article describing osteochondrosis, all the symptoms of which reminded me of an infarction (heart attack). Having read the article," he elaborates, "I realized

instantly...that I am indeed suffering from osteochondrosis..." Of his symptoms — inability to sit for long periods, or to lie on the left side — Shcharansky nevertheless implies that there is no immediate cause for alarm.

Abram stressed that Shcharansky is undaunted by his physical disability, or by the cold, tedium and restrictions of life in the "Gulag." He pointed out that Shcharansky's determination to live as a Jew in Israel, and to be reunited with his wife Avital there, comes through in the letter.

"I observe (Shabbat)," Shcharansky writes, "in the following way: I read parts of Solomon's proverbs and some other wise books, excerpts from which I had copies when I had, for a short time, the possibility of reading the Bible. I then filled a whole thick notebook with these writings. Your parcel will, of course, also come in handy at the Shabbat table.

"And where, I wonder, is my wife observing this Sabbath?...I can imagine how sick she must be of travelling!...Would it not be nice to lie down somewhere on the beach in Eilat, to go for a swim in the Red Sea."

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

Mayor Edward I. Koch To Be Honored By The American ORT Federation



New York City Mayor Edward I. Koch will be honored by the American ORT Federation at a gala dinner at the Vista International Hotel at the New York World Trade Center September 20th, announced AOF President Alvin L. Gray.

Mayor Koch will receive the American ORT Federation Community Achievement Award "in recognition of his outstanding leadership and accomplishments in enhancing the quality of life in New York City." Funds raised at the dinner will be used to establish the Mayor Edward I. Koch ORT Scholarship Fund.

The ORT (Organization for Rehabilitation through Training) global network of 800 schools and training centers educates more than 112,000 students throughout the Jewish world, 78,000 in Israel, alone, in vocational/technical skills ranging from welding to robotics technology. Since its founding in 1880, ORT has trained more than 2 million people in the marketable skills that have enabled them to learn a livelihood and achieve dignity in their lives for themselves and their children.

Warsaw Diary By Young Girl Is Donated To Holocaust Museum

TEL AVIV (WNS) — The diary of a 17-year-old girl, describing her life hidden in a cellar in Warsaw during the first 113 days of the Nazi occupation of the Polish capital, has been donated to the Holocaust Memorial Museum at Kibbutz Lohamei u Hagetaot in western Galilee, by the diarist.

Described as the "Polish Anne Frank Record" the 54-page ac-

count of her life in the cellar, together with 60 other Jews, was recently found by the young writer, now Lily Goldenberg, during spring cleaning.

Goldenberg believes she was the last Polish Jewish citizen allowed by the Nazis to leave Poland for Palestine, on the strength of a Palestine entry certificate already granted to her before the outbreak of the war.

Peres Outlines Foreign Policy If Elected Premier

(Continued from page 1) met privately with Premier Yitzhak Shamir. Other key government officials, including Defense Minister Moshe Arens, and leaders of key coalition and opposition parties were scheduled to meet with the WJC Executive over the next few days.

Peres said a Labor-led government would act within 100 days of taking office to halve Jewish settlement activity, while maintaining a security zone in the West Bank. He said that

as a means of inducing King Hussein of Jordan to enter the peace process, he would offer three options.

The negotiations could begin without prior conditions by either side; Labor would not insist on the Camp David formula but would be willing to negotiate on the basis of United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 — which Jordan has accepted; or Israel would be willing to accept President Reagan's September 1, 1982 Middle East peace initiative as the basis for negotiations, while recognizing the different interpretations placed on those proposals.



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