

## UCSJ Congressional Briefing On Soviet Jews Draws Record Attendance

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Mrs. Avital Shcharansky described the condition of her husband, Soviet Prisoner of Conscience Anatoly Shcharansky. Shcharansky, who turned 37 on January 20th, is reported in a hospital in Camp #35 in the Ural Mountains. Avital thanked the Members for their help and said she felt Congressional intervention has played a decisive role in persuading Soviet authorities to reveal Anatoly's whereabouts and permit a recent visit by his mother. Secretary Abrams commented on the Reagan Administration's policy to press, both publicly and privately, for free emigration: "The Reagan Administration has been fully supportive of the Jackson Amendment, has used it successfully with respect to Romania, and continues to view it as a very important tool to achieve the goal of free emigration." In a packed-

to-capacity hearing room of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, Congressman Jack Kemp (R-NY) noted, "This (the Soviet Jewry issue) is not a political issue -- it is a human rights issue." Congressman Kemp co-hosted the UCSJ event with Congressman Dante Fascell (D-FL), Senator John Heinz (R-PA), and Senator Gary Hart (D-CO).

Congressman Larry Coughlin (R-PA) received an award for having sponsored the UCSJ Congressional Call to Conscience in 1984. The Call to Conscience, which began officially in 1976, enables Members of Congress to speak out on behalf of human rights in the Soviet Union. Statements about the cases of individual Soviet Jews are regularly inserted in the Congressional Record by members who "adopt" a particular individual or family. It was announced at the briefing that in 1985 Senator Rudy Boschwitz (R-MN) and Congressman Sander Levin (D-MI) will co-chair the Call to Conscience. Congressman Dante Fascell, who is now Chairman of the House Foreign Relations Committee, and whose leadership of the Helsinki Commission since its inception has been fundamental to the cause of Soviet Jewry, urged his colleagues in the House and Senate to continue with him in the ongoing struggle for human rights and free emigration for Soviet Jews.

UCSJ President Morey Schapira thanked the 250 participants at the briefing: "Your presence sends a positive signal that the Congress is firm in its commitment to the cause of Soviet Jews."

TEL AVIV (WNS) — The Israel Defense Force will reduce the active duty time for most reserve soldiers from 50 to 37 days a year, beginning with the start of the new fiscal year next April 1. Reserve officers who command units will be required to serve 42 days. Deputy Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. David Ivry, who announced the change, said extended army service put a severe strain on the national economy. In 1984, reservists had been required to spend 60 days a year on active duty.

## White House Confirms Increased Aid For Israel

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have to be more should the U.S. decide to provide arms to Arab states in the region. Rabin added, however, that there was no mention from Administration officials of imminent plans of arms sales to Saudi Arabia or Jordan.

Rabin said Israel "appreciates" the U.S. increase and indicated that it would not seek to have the amount raised by Congress unless new weapons are sold to the Arabs. He stressed that most of the money is spent in the U.S. for the purchase of arms and only \$200 million will be used in Israel for the development of the Lavie fighter plane.

Rabin said that while he believed no decision has been made on economic aid, the President has a "positive attitude" toward helping Israel in its present economic difficulties. "I'm optimistic about what will be done by the U.S. government in support of our efforts, serious efforts in Israel, to bring about a recovery of our economy," he said.

The Defense Minister said he briefed Reagan on Israel's accomplishments in the first step of its economic recovery program which has already reduced inflation and on the next step which calls for deep cuts in government subsidies and \$1.1 billion in cuts in government operations, including "to my sorrow," the defense budget. "Israel for the sake of the recovery of its economy is going to have to take security risks, and a real one," Rabin said.

Rabin met with Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger and Secretary of State George Shultz and with the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

He told reporters that he thanked Reagan for all he had done for Israel during his first term and stressed that the cooperation between the two countries would continue.

Rabin said that in all of his discussions here he stressed Israel's opposition to bringing the Soviet Union into the Middle East peace process. "The last 11 years have proved that if there is to be any more toward peace in the region it must be done with the U.S. leading the process, with the cooperation of Israel and at least one Arab country." He added the warning that "Whoever will bring the Soviets to be a party to the peace process in the region, there will be no peace and no process."


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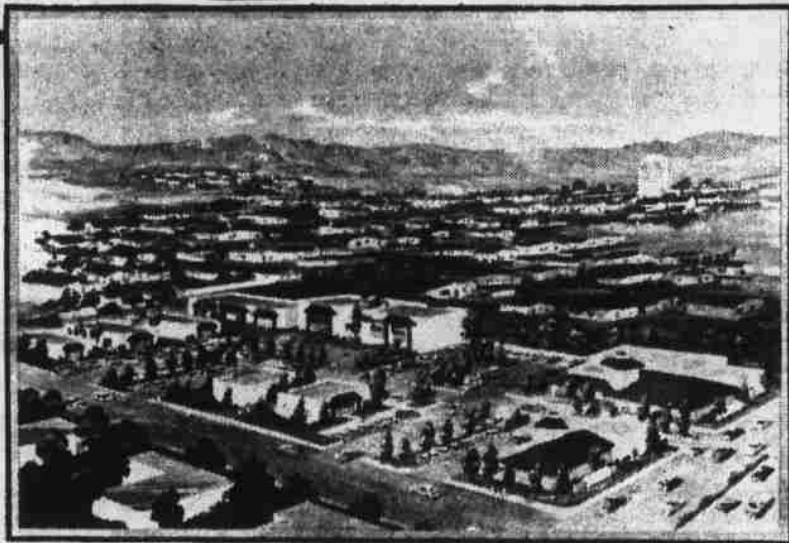
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