

## Only 124 Jews Allowed To Leave USSR During October

NEW YORK (WNS) — Despite rumors of an accelerated rate of emigration from the USSR, only 124 Jews from the Soviet Union arrived in the West during October, according to Jerry Goodman, executive director of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ). The data, compiled by the NCSJ Research Bureau, reflects the norm established in 1984, when 896 Jews left the Soviet Union.

According to the NCSJ, "there is no evidence, based on performance, of any changes in Soviet practices, despite rumors and statements made by Secretary General Mikhail Gorbachev in Paris last month." The organization noted that only two weeks ago Leonid Volvosky of Gorky was sentenced to three years in a labor camp, for circulating material allegedly "defaming the Soviet State."

Volvosky is one of the prime advocates of Hebrew teaching and study, a cause which is assumed to be his "real

crime." In the last year, one Jewish activist per month was sentenced to prison or labor camp. Virtually all of them were from among the unregistered Hebrew teachers, the NCSJ reported.

While there is a great deal of speculation, on the eve of the summit meeting between President Reagan and Gorbachev, about the movement of Jews from the Soviet Union, "this cannot be documented at this time," Goodman said. He expressed hope, however, that the estimated 15,000 Jewish refuseniks would soon receive permission to leave, a development which "would be well received in this country," Goodman said.

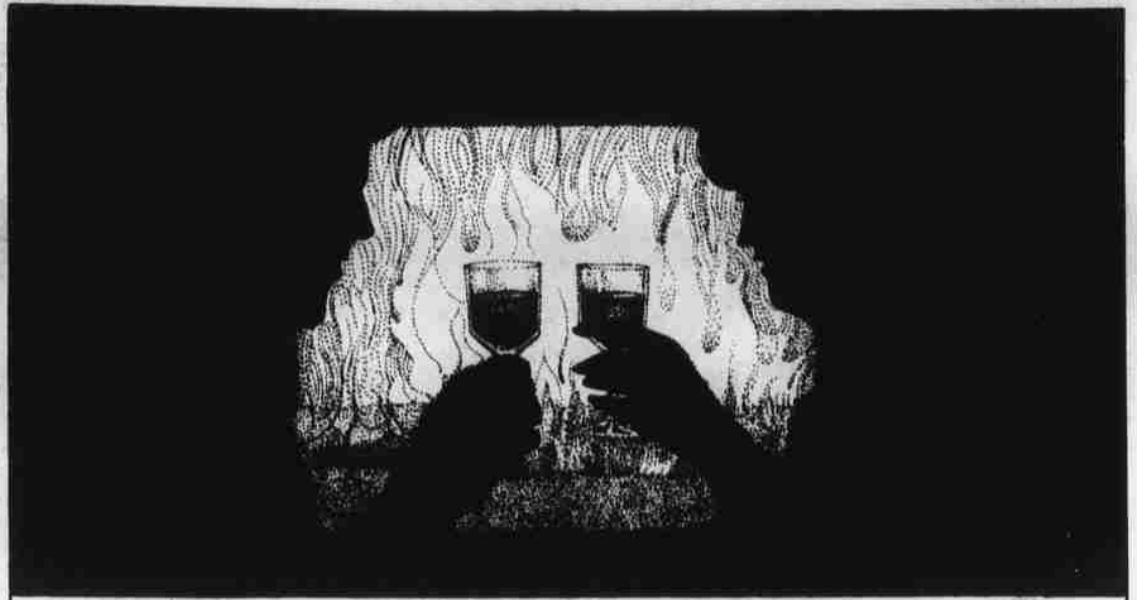
In a related matter, the NCSJ submitted a list to the State Department of over 200 Jewish families waiting more than 10 years to leave the USSR, or who remain divided by Soviet Policy. The NCSJ pointed out that Gorbachev had indicated in interviews, at the time

he met with French President Francois Mitterrand in Paris last month, that if there is a problem of family reunion, it will be solved. Gorbachev was also quoted as saying that "we prevent such a solution only if state secrets are involved...Even to these people we give the possibility (of waiting) five or ten years." Goodman said that "we have prepared the list of such persons. It is now Moscow's decision."

Meanwhile, reports from Washington indicate that President Reagan will use a low key approach on Soviet Jews and human rights in his Geneva meeting with Gorbachev later this month.

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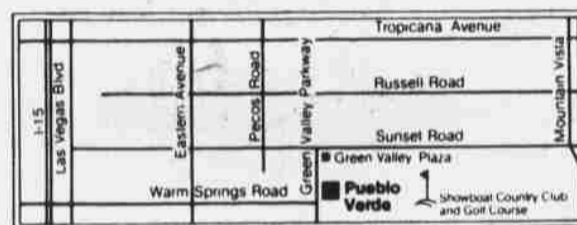
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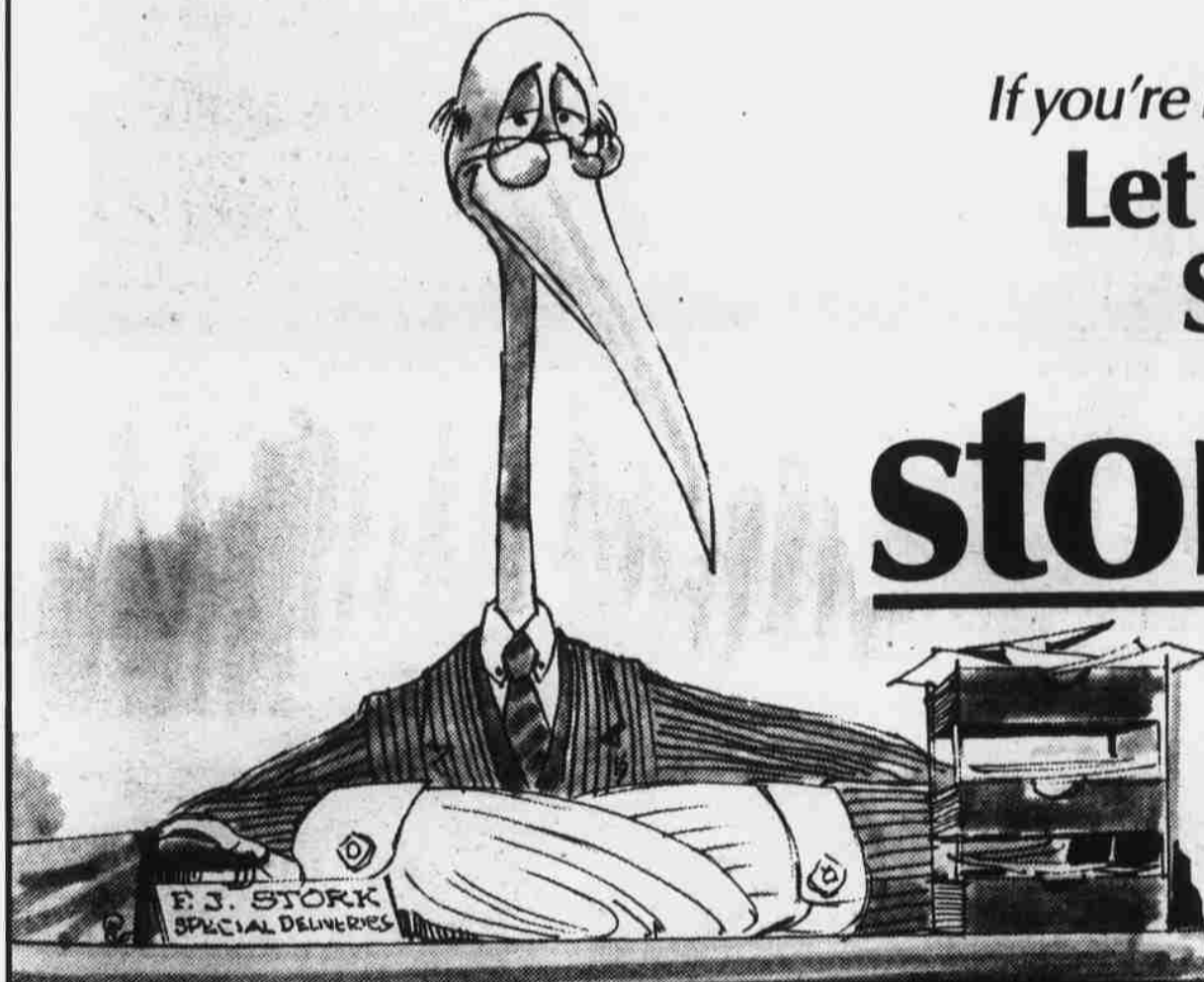
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