Soviet Refusenik Ilya Essas **Granted Permission** To Emigrate

South Florida Conference on Soviet Jewry, a local Union of Councils for Soviet Jews affiliate. has learned that 12 year Soviet Jewish refusenik, Ilya Essas, of Moscow, has been granted permission to emigrate from the Soviet Union.

Essas, a mathematician/physicist first applied to emigrate to Israel in August of 1973, but was almost immediately refused permission on the grounds of the "secrecy of his work." (He was a lecturer in Mathematics in the Moscow Medical Institute.) In addition, Ilya was a very religious

Jew who led struggles to promote the study of the Hebrew language and Jewish culture in the USSR. As a result of his teachings, his home was searched by the KGB and his books on Jewish language and culture were confiscated. The continued harassment forced him to reduce his activities but he never gave up the struggle to emigrate nor educate his fellow Jews in the Hebrew culture.

Word of Essas' pending emigration was received by Judy Gilbert, Associate Director of the South Florida Conference of Soviet Jewry in a telephone call from Congressman Bill Lehman (D. Fl.). Lehman was informed of the release by Victor Isakov, number two man at the Soviet Embassy in Washington. In addition, Congressman Lehman has visited with the Essas family during his travels to the Soviet Union.

Stated Hinda Cantor, Chairperson of the South Florida Conference and Vice President of Councils for Soviet Jews, "We are overjoyed that the Essas family has been granted permission to emigrate." However, Cantor cautioned that "one family is not enough and many others are still being held against their will. We will not be happy until all those desiring to emigrate do so."

Cantor also praised Congressman Bill Lehman for his outstanding efforts in helping to obtain the release of the Essas family. "His dedication and commitment will continue to provide much hope for many more families in the Soviet Union."

NYU Gives Peres Honorary Degree



Prime Minister Shimon Peres of Israel receives honorary degree (Center) from New York University at a convocation on Monday, October 21st. The Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree was conferred by NYU President John Barademas (Right). Laurence Tisch, Chairman of the NYU Board of Trustees also participated in the ceremonies.

K. O. Knudson Community Center, 2400 Atlantic Avenue, will be hosting a Men's Basketball League on Thursdays beginning on January 16 at 6:00 p.m. For more information call 457-3572 after 5:00 p.m.

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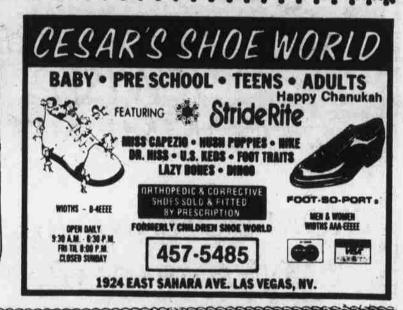
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