

American Jewish Leaders Hail Shcharansky Release

NEW YORK (WNS) — American Jewish leaders hailed the release of Soviet Jewish aliyah activist Anatoly Shcharansky, but they also stressed that the fight on behalf of Soviet Jewry is not over yet and that thousands of Jews are still waiting in the USSR to receive permission to emigrate.

Kenneth Bialkin, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, expressed "joy" at Shcharansky's freedom and praised President Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz "for their unrelenting and ultimately successful efforts to win his release. Their commitment to the cause of Soviet Jewry merits our deepest appreciation."

Gerald Kraft, president of B'nai B'rith International declared: "We can only rejoice that Shcharansky's bitter ordeal has finally come to an end and that he can rejoin his remarkably courageous and steadfast wife, Avital." He said, however, that Jews in the USSR "are still denied basic freedom as Jews," and that the Jewish community in the United States "will continue its efforts to help those Soviet Jews who wish to leave to do so."

In a joint statement, Howard Friedman, president and David Gordis, executive vice president, of the American Jewish Committee, said: "At the same time that we rejoice in Shcharansky's freedom, we are ever mindful of the tens of thousands of other Soviet Jews who remain behind, denied the opportunity for an exit visa. We reaffirm our pledge to continue our efforts until they, too, are able to establish new lives in Israel and be reunited with their families."

Abraham Foxman, associate national director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, said he welcomed Shcharansky's release but

added that there cannot be full rejoicing "while hundreds of thousands of other Soviet Jews continue to suffer -- unable to live as Jews in the Soviet Union, unable to leave."

Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, stated: "The release of Shcharansky confirms once again that the Soviet Union cannot forever resist the force of world opinion. It reminds us too that, blessed as we are with freedom to think and speak and act, American Jews must never forget or abandon their brothers and sisters, who, because they wish to live as Jews and join their families in Israel, have been persecuted and imprisoned by Soviet authorities."

The National Conference on Soviet Jewry said: "We are extremely grateful to this Administration for the continuing public and private efforts in helping secure Shcharansky's freedom and having him repatriated to Israel to join his wife, Avital."

Bernice Tannenbaum, chairman of the American Section of the World Zionist Organization, said: "Soviet propaganda attempted unsuccessfully to camouflage Shcharansky's imprisonment for Zionist and humanist activities, as a defender of human rights, and the Helsinki accords, with the canard of espionage. It is so fitting, so right, so inspiring that he has already arrived in the State that welcomes him while it continues to burn a lamp of hope for his fellow Soviet Jews."

Alan Pesky, chairman of the Coalition to Free

Soviet Jews, said that the "momentous event" of Shcharansky's release "does not mean the end of our struggle to ease the plight of two and a half million Soviet Jews." He said his organization welcomed the release, "especially in view of the Soviets' unwillingness for many years to even consider the notion of his departure."

American Jewish Congress president Theodore Mann said Shcharansky's release is "an encouraging and significant event," but the degree to which it "reflects a real change in Soviet policy" remains uncertain. To the extent that the Shcharansky action does signal a new openness on the part of the Soviet Union, Mann said, "it holds the promise of a new phase in American-Soviet relations."

Rabbi Louis Bernstein, president of the Rabbinical Council of America, said that Shcharansky's release was a tribute to the greatness of the American people and its President. "It is a victory of the indomitable spirit of a human being created in the image of God over the forces of evil and darkness," he stated.

Ruth Popkin, president of Hadassah, welcomed the release of Shcharansky, stating that he "has been a symbol of courage and determination for the cause of Soviet Jewry and to all who cherish freedom. We hope that his

(Continued on page 5)

SEGAL'S KOSHER MEATS

Local Delivery
734-9540



Congregation
Shaarei Tefilla
Forman - Glick
1331 So. Maryland Parkway
ORTHODOX

7:30 AM DAILY—8:30 AM SAT.—9:00 AM SUN.
FRIDAY NIGHT AT SUNDOWN

384-3565 Member Of Union Orthodox Congregations

Southern Nevada Music Co.

The Wunderlich Sisters
Caryn, Denise & Lisa
represent "The House Of
Steinway" in Las Vegas.



DENISE

CARYN

LISA

"Let our family bring MUSIC
into the home of your family."

SINCE 1958

731-4646

953 E. SAHARA AVE. LAS VEGAS
(SAHARA ENTRANCE OF COMMERCIAL CENTER)

We're Your
Hometown Dairy
The Freshest You Can Get

Anderson

GOLD

STAR

DAIRY PRODUCTS

Since 1907