

This Year In Jerusalem

By Robert E. Segal

Anatoly Shcharansky is liberated from Soviet imprisonment and free in Israel. Andrei Sakharov remains locked in exile in Gorky.

"I am happy that I lived honestly, in peace with my conscience. I never compromised my soul even under threat of death," Shcharansky told the world as Israel gave him tumultuous and joyful welcome.

What follows now?

Yuri F. Orlov, Anatoly Koryagin, and many other Soviet Jews who have fought bravely for exit and have won the world's plaudits for their courage continue to fight for liberation. Some 400,000 of the Soviet Union's 2,600,000 Jews want to leave.

Does the release of Shcharansky signal a softening of the traditional Kremlin hard line against emigration? Are we to swallow the December, 1985, rumor that Mikhail Gorbachev is about to arrange airlifts to wing Jews to freedom?

Shcharansky is more than dubious. Rather, as he sees it, you can expect an even more stringent policy against emigration and a stronger determination to flout the Helsinki accords Leonid Brezhnev signed in 1975 along with representatives of 34 other nations. Those accords guaranteed right of exit and a pledge to act in conformity with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Shcharansky reasons Gorbachev is counting

on the drama of his recent release to induce the U.S. to co-operate with the Soviet Union on its military, political, and economic agenda.

"Be not deceived," Shcharansky warns. "The more Mr. Gorbachev spoke about the civilized methods of behavior, the more I was surprised of how uncivilized the policy of the camp is." The Prisoner of Conscience echoes Emerson's keen insight: "The louder he talked of his honor, the faster we counted our spoons."

Only such factors as the persistent demands at U.S. - Soviet Union Summit sessions and constant appeals from prominent statesmen, scientists, men of letters, religious leaders, and lawmakers in freedom-loving nations can win improvement for Soviet Jewry and for the hundreds of Russian Pentecostals, Orthodox, and Lithuanian Catholics who long for the day when they can practice their religious programs in peace elsewhere.

Visas for Soviet Jews reached a high point in 1979 when 51,320 left the Soviet Union. In sad contrast, in the last few years, the annual number has hovered around a thousand to three thousand.

And currently, the Kremlin continues to insist there are no political prisoners in the Soviet Union, that Moscow never puts people on trial for their convictions.

Shcharansky's ordeal gives the lie to such vapid pretense. His journey through the hell of Soviet cruelty will stand as a classic study. The free world would be well instructed to heed it.

Along with Andrei Sakharov, Aleksandr Ginzburg, Yuri Orlov, Vladimir Slepak, and other courageous and vigilant Russians, he formed the Public Group For Further Implementation of the Helsinki Agreement ten years ago. The KGB planted a provocateur, Sanya Lipavsky (posing as a dissident) to trap Shcharansky. Lipavsky obliged by affirming Moscow's claim that Shcharansky was a tool of the CIA.

As the trap closed on Shcharansky and kangaroo court proceedings began, President Carter made firm denial of the damaging accusation against the Jewish computer scientist. Said Carter in 1978: The trial of Anatoly Shcharansky is an attack on every human being who lives in the world, who believes in basic human freedom, and is willing to speak for these freedoms or fight for them."

Now that millions rejoice in Shcharansky's emergence from the Soviet Union's pits of torture and injustice, his wife, Avital, who has knocked on the doors of the mighty to help win his release for ten years reminds the world that "his only crimes are his love for freedom and for his faith" - crimes the Soviets call "espionage and anti-Soviet agitation."

In an era poisoned, saddened, and wearied of apartheid in South Africa and chicanery and murder that characterize the Marcos tyranny in the Philippines, the Shcharansky voyage from Soviet imprisonment to "This Year in Jerusalem" is a beacon of hope for all fighters for freedom.

1985 ORT Yearbook Published By American ORT Federation



The 1985 ORT Yearbook has been published and is being distributed to Jewish organizations and leaders throughout the U.S., announced Alvin L. Gray, President of the American ORT Federation. Produced in a new format, it provides a comprehensive, country-by-country report on ORT global operations which provide vocational, technical and Jewish education to 133,000 students in 16 countries, with 84,000 in Israel alone. The Yearbook is available on request from the American ORT Federation, 817 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10003.

Highlights of the Yearbook include "ORT: New Answers for a New Age," which outlines the strategies adopted by ORT educators throughout the ORT global network to keep curricula up to date with technological advancements. "Reaching Out in Diverse Ways" focuses on developments in ORT programs in six Latin American countries, and the means by which ORT is able to connect scattered Jewish communities within the network of an international ORT organization.

ORT operations in the United States are also reviewed, with updates on the Bramson ORT Technical Institute in New York City, the Jewish High School of South Florida in North Miami Beach, and the Los Angeles ORT Technical Institute, which began operations in October 1985.

BONN (WNS) — A group of 27 young neo-Nazis demonstrated in front of the Spandau Prison in West Berlin demanding the release of Rudolph Hess, the last Nazi leader who is still imprisoned there. An 18-year-old member of the group was arrested for giving the banned Nazi salute.

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