Friday, March 14, 1986

Former Expatriate's Reunion With Son Completes Circle Of Events That Spans Six Decades



86-year-old Irving Milman of New York City (right), greeted son, Aaron (center), after a nine-year-long separation on Friday, February 14. On hand at JFK International Airport to welcome Aaron Milman, his wife and son on their arrival from the Soviet Union (via Zurich), was Robert L. Israeloff (left), President of HIAS (the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society). So ends a story that has spanned six decades. Born in the U.S.S.R. in 1900, Irving Milman emigrated to the United States in 1920 and became a citizen in 1930. In 1936, the Milman family returned to the Soviet Union, maintaining dual citizenship. When Irving was granted permission to exit the Soviet Union in 1977, his son's family was not. Finally, in January of this year, the families learned that they would be reunited. At the request of the U.S. State Department, HIAS helped to oversee their reception and initial resettlement plans. NYANA (the New York Association for New Americans) will assist the family during their first weeks here, should the need arise.

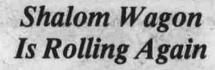
NEW YORK, N.Y. — 86-year-old Irving Milman welcomed his son, Aaron, his daughter-in-law,

and grandson at JFK International Airport. Their arrival from the Soviet Union completes an intricate circle of events that began in the 1920's.

Irving Milman was born in the Soviet Union in 1900. He emigrated to the United States in 1920, becoming a citizen ten years later, after the birth of his son, Aaron. With the onset of the Depression, the employment situation for him in the United States grew untenable, and, in 1936, the family returned to the Soviet Union. Forty years later, Mr. Milman's sister, still living in New York, became seriously ill. He was granted permission to leave the Soviet Union, and saw her only 15 days before she died. Deciding to remain in this country, Mr. Milman had his U.S. citizenship reinstated. Meanwhile, in the Soviet Union, Aaron applied to join his father and was denied permission to exit.

Finally, nine years later, in January of this year, Aaron, his wife, Alexandra, and their adopted son, Alexander, received word that they would be allowed to emigrate. Upon receipt of this news, in New York, Irving Milman purchased and sent to the Moscow Milmans airline tickets to the United States via Zurich. As a dual national, Aaron Milman will be readmitted to the United States as a returning American. His wife and son are entering as immigrants, beneficiaries of a petition that he submitted in Moscow.

Because of this series of unusual circumstances, the U.S. State Deparatment called upon HIAS, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, for help in the Milman's reception and in overseeing the preliminary stages of the family's resettlement. NYANA, the New York Association for New Americans, the agency that handles the



Patterned after Welcome Wagon and sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Las Vegas, Shalom Wagon's purpose is to welcome and introduce Jewish families to the community.

In this hurried, diverse society of ours, we sometimes forget to say we need each other. Your neighbors in the Jewish community are reaching out a hand to you -- one that says you are vitally needed to participate in the growth of our community.

If you are new to the area or have been here awhile yet still feel new, call the Jewish Federation at 732-0556 and avail yourself of all that our community has to offer. Shalom Wagon will arrange for someone to contact you by telephone or, if you prefer, a home visit can be aranged.

Shalom Wagon is looking forward to hosting a number of functions this spring, including an afternoon tea and a Shabbat dinner.

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resettlement of immigrants in the New York area, will assist the family in their initial weeks here, should the need arise.

"For more than a century, HIAS has had the privilege of taking part in the reunification of families," said HIAS President Robert L. Israeloff, who was among those at Kennedy Airport to greet the Milman family. "While HIAS is always happy to save even one life, to reunite even one family," he said, "it should not be forgotten that there are thousands more who wish to leave the Soviet Union and other oppressed lands. We look forward to the day when they too, will be free to live their lives in freedom and dignity."

(HIAS is the international migration agency of the organized Jewish community. HIAS is a beneficiary of the UJA of Greater New York and Jewish federations across the country.)



cordially invite you to join Rabbi Mel and Micki Hecht for Passover Seder on Wednesday, April 23rd, at six o'clock in the evening in the GRAND BALL ROOM

Passover celebrates one of the most basic themes of our humanity: a freedom which affirms a commitment of values, ideals and people outside ourselves - to our Faith and Tradition; to our Family, Friends and Community. *COME AND JOIN US FOR A WARM, JOYOUS AND MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCE.* (A package of two nights - three days at the MGM Grand, including Seder, is available for out-of-town guests.)

> Reservations must be secured by April 15th Please call Rabbi Mel at 702/645-6624.