

Shcharansky, Not Well, Cancels Appearances

JERUSALEM (WNS) — Growing speculation that Anatoly Shcharansky is in poor health was confirmed by his wife, Avital. But she said a report that he was too ill to attend a banquet in his honor was "a little exaggerated." Avital Shcharansky,

who was reunited with her husband in West Germany when he was released by Soviet authorities in an East-West prisoner exchange after spending nine years in Russian prisons and labor camps, said, he "has to rest

did not appear and Soviet aliya sources said he was too ill even to record greetings to the banquet.

The same sources said he has not been able to sleep or to adopt to a normal diet after years of deprivation in the Soviet Gulag. According to

these sources, Shcharansky, 38, has trouble walking any distance because of a heart condition. But his wife said he was eating lots of fruit and vegetables for their vitamin content and her remark that "he has to walk a lot" seemed to scotch reports that he found walking difficult.

Concern over Shcharansky's health arose because he has not been seen in public for several weeks. He and his wife have been at a holiday resort in northern Israel. When the couple was reunited last month they hadn't seen each other since their wedding day in Moscow in 1974.

JNF Dedicates Forest To Fallen & Wounded Soldiers



Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek speaks before some 200 senior members of the IDF and representatives of fallen and wounded soldiers, at the Jewish National Fund's inauguration of Yaar Tzahal, the Forest of the Israel Defense Forces, in South Jerusalem. Seated are, from left to right, Rabbi Gad Navon, Chief Rabbi, IDF; Moshe Levy, Chief of Staff, IDF; Yitzhak Rabin, Minister of Defense, and Moshe Rivlin, World Chairman, Keren Kayemeth Lelsrael (JNF). Kollek told the audience that "Jerusalem's unification would not be possible without the IDF's military action. The forest we are dedicating today in honor of our soldiers justifies the losses we have incurred." JNF is the organization responsible for afforestation and land reclamation in Israel.

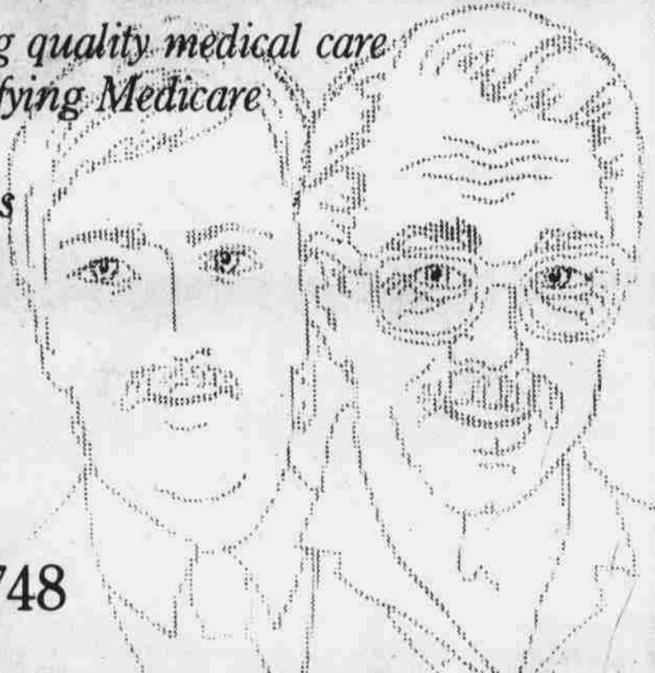
... He is resting now ... He has to walk a lot." She also disclosed that Shcharansky's sleep was disturbed by nightmares, "dreams of the punishment call." He had been kept in solitary confinement for long periods during his incarceration and punishment for protesting against his harsh treatment.

Avital made her comments in reply to questions during a brief appearance before a conference here of the U.S. Union of Councils for Soviet Jewry; the British "Group of 35," which has been campaigning for emigration rights for Soviet Jews; and the Jerusalem-based Soviet Jewry

Education and Information Center. The "Group of 35" held a banquet in Tel Aviv to honor Shcharansky. He

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