NEW YORK (WNS) -- Forty-five Moscow refuseniks, protesting Soviet violations of huto an international human rights conference in Bern, Switzerland, appealing to the participants "to help us in realizing our legitimate right to leave the USSR, the right that has been guaranteed in particular by the Helsin-

ki Accords." The refuseniks, all of whom have been waiting for years to go to Israel, warned that "if no solution of such a simple problem as Jewish emigration from the USSR is soon found, the other issues of the Helsinki Accords more difficult to resolve and control may be in danger of being indefinitely shelved."

The conference in Bern, includes experts

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from 35 countries which signed the Helsinki Accords in 1975. The six-week man rights, sent a letter meeting will deal with issues of human contacts, including telecommunications, tourism, and family reunifications.

> The National Conference also said it had learned that Jewish activists inside the Soviet Union have asked that the subject of Jewish emigration from the USSR be given "top priority" by Western Jewish communities. They point out that only 47 Jews were allowed to leave the Soviet Union last month.



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## Las Vegas Israelite **Clergy Stages Freedom Seder**

**Outside San Francisco Soviet Consulate** 

(WNS) - Under the watchful view of Soviet surveilance equipment, an interfaith group of local clergy staged a "Freedom Seder" outside the Soviet Consulate here. The seder included a fully set Passover table in the street directly in front of the Consulate gates.

"God hears the cries of Soviet Jews and we must also," said the Rev. Emil Authelet. north coastal area minister of American Baptist Churches of the West. "Yet His cry needs a human voice. We are to be that voice in today's world."

Authelet is one of the eight interfaith clerics who organized the Freedom Seder. The eight clerics led the

SAN FRANCISCO Passover service in the reading of the specially written Freedom Seger haggadah -- the telling of the exodus, which in this case drew parallels with the plight of Soviet Jews.

**Eight Soviet Jewish** Prisoners of Conscience were the focus of this year's Freedom Seder, in large photographs set in a row down the center of the table.

Chairs around the table were left empty in a symbolic gesture for the Jews in the Soviet Union who cannot celebrate Passover. "We are doing it for them," said Richard Barron and Ruben Haller, co-chairpersons of the demonstration and members of the Board of the Bay Area Council for Soviet Jews.

Only 1,139 Soviet Jews were permitted to

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emigrate in 1985, down substantially from the peak year in Soviet Jewish emigration of 1970, when more than 51,000 Jews were allowed to leave.

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## **Israelite**



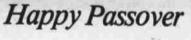


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