

Israel's Position On Soviet Consular Delegation Remains Reciprocal

JERUSALEM (WNS) - The Foreign Ministry denied press reports that contrary to stated Israeli policy, a Soviet consular delegation would visit Israel soon without a reciprocal Israeli visit to the USSR.

Despite the denial, Soviet emigres reacted sharply, most vocal among them the internationally known Natan Shcharansky.

According to a Foreign Ministry spokesman, Premier Shimon Peres made a point of discussing the issue with Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, stressing that there was no change in Israeli policy.

The Foreign Ministry said that the position of Israel continued to be the reciprocity outlined by Israeli delegates to their Soviet counterpart at their meeting in Helsinki on August 18. Since then, the Ministry said, there had been no contacts with the Soviets.

In a separate statement, Minister-

Without Portfolio Moshe Arens said no government forum had given the green light to a Soviet delegation. He contended that any Soviet demand should be met with a minimum demand by Israel to release all Jews imprisoned on Zionist activities. "No Soviet request should be met without a similar response to Israel's requests regarding Soviet Jews," said Arens.

Speaking at a press conference beside his mother Ida Milgrom and his brother Leonid, Natan Shcharansky urged a public campaign against the USSR which would convince it that "public opinion of the West will simply never permit their governments to sacrifice the interests of Soviet Jewry." In a word, Shcharansky said, he condoned all "non-violent" action to achieve the goal of freeing Soviet Jewry.

On the reported proposal by Peres that a Soviet delegation be

allowed to visit Israel, Shcharansky said adamantly: "We can never compromise because it is really very dangerous, and if (the report) is correct, it's a serious mistake which can bear very grave consequences for all who struggle for Soviet Jewry." Shcharansky thanked all those who

helped bring the family arrived in Israel August together. His mother, 25 from the Soviet brother and his family Union.

Spiritual Thought For The Week

Always consider the consequences of your actions.

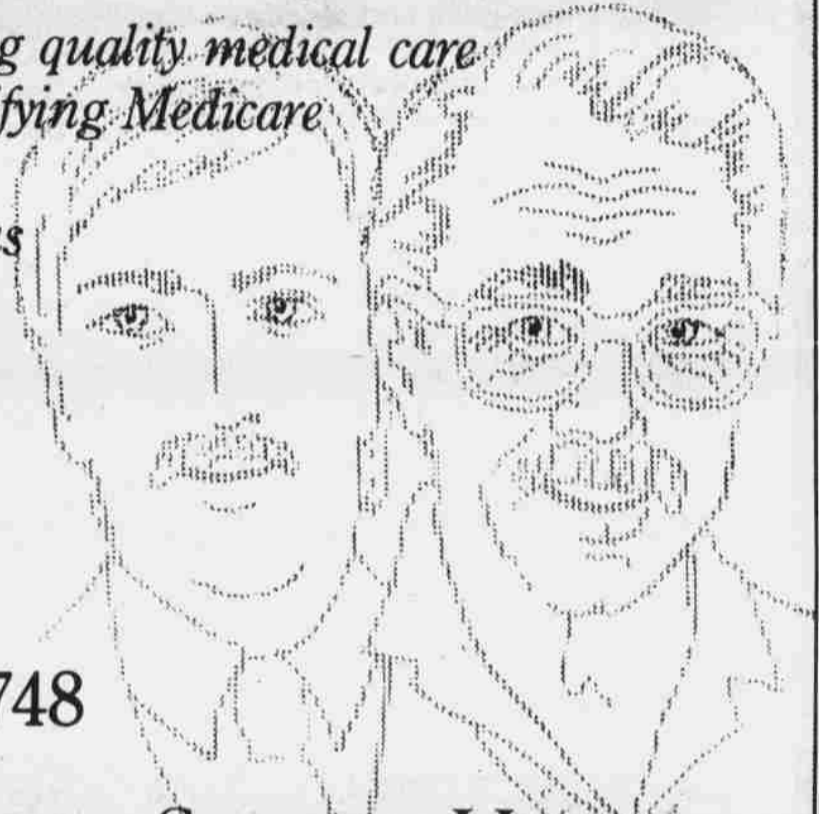
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