

Reagan Urged To Save Soviet Jewry

WASHINGTON — President Reagan was urged to seek a full settlement of the problems of Soviet Jewry when he meets General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev at the Reykjavik summit next week.

The Board of Directors of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, meeting here, said the Administration's efforts to obtain exit visas for specific Soviet Jewish families is appreciated, but insisted that "Now is the time to negotiate full freedom of emigration for all who wish to leave in accordance with the Helsinki Final Act which was signed by the Soviet Union."

In a telegram to President Reagan, the Board further expressed its "deep concern about the continuing and intensifying mistreatment" of Jews in the Soviet Union.

Commenting on the message to Reagan, Pamela Cohen of Chicago, newly elected President of the Union of Councils, said, "We have confidence in President Reagan's concern for Soviet Jewry, and we trust that this issue will be on the table at the summit."

The telegram stated, "We are counting on you, Mr. President, to bring the message to Iceland that the United States insists on freedom for Soviet Jewry."

The Union of Councils also renewed its support for the Jackson-Vanik amendment and its opposition to the American Bar Association's agreement with the Association of Soviet Lawyers.

In a 3-day meeting here, the UCSJ leadership reiterated that the Jackson-Vanik amendment, linking Soviet Jewish emigration to Soviet-American trade, should not be repealed while the Soviet Union continues to refuse exit visas to more than 400 thousand Jews.

Morey Schapira, retiring UCSJ president, said that the American Jewish community "stands solidly behind the amendment."

Addressing the question of the ABA agreement with the Soviet lawyers' organization, the UCSJ leaders insisted that the pact should be abrogated because the Soviet group is a tool of the state and its officers promote anti-Semitism in the USSR.

Pamela Cohen of Chicago, Illinois, was elected UCSJ president by acclamation. She has been co-chair of Chicago Action for Soviet Jews for 8 years and is personally acquainted with dozens of Soviet Jewish refuseniks and prisoners of conscience.

The UCSJ leadership received a congratulatory cable from newly released refusenik Vladimir Brodsky who had arrived in Israel. The text of their letter follows:

President Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of the officers and Board of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, I congratulate you on your success in achieving the release of Nick Daniloff and in setting the dates for the summit meeting.

In our role as advocates for the beleaguered Jews of the Soviet Union, we are counting on you, Mr. President, to carry the message to Iceland that the United States insists on freedom for Soviet Jewry. We have appreciated the administration's efforts to obtain exit permits for specific Soviet Jewish families, but now is the time to negotiate full freedom of emigration for all who wish to leave in accordance with the Helsinki Final Act which was signed by the Soviet Union.

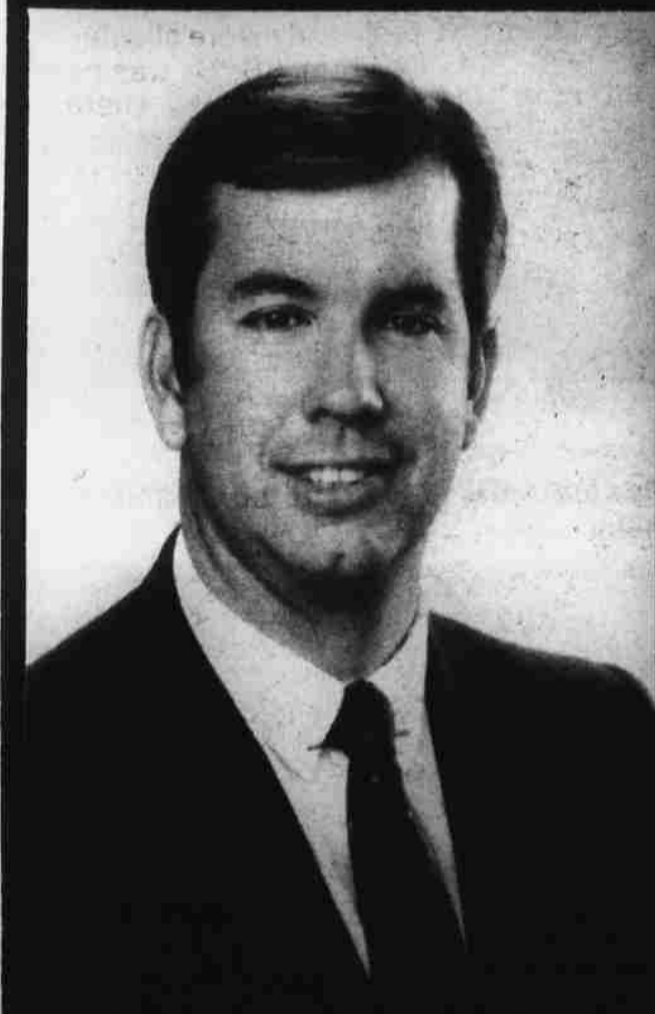
We also are deeply concerned about the continuing and intensifying mistreatment of Jews in the Soviet Union and urge you to raise this issue as well at the summit.

Pamela Cohen
National President
Union of Councils for Soviet Jews

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