

A Few, But Not Sakharov

By Robert E. Segal

Now and then, the Soviet exit door creaks on its rusty hinges, and a half dozen or so Jewish dissidents are able to leave their homeland.

Caprice is the dominant factor in these rare cases of emigration achieved. President Reagan and General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev meet in Reykjavik primarily to discuss the possibility of taming some of the huge engines of nuclear warfare. As promised, Mr. Reagan appeals for the release of Soviet Jews hungry for freedom, for the reuniting of families, for a new respect of human rights; and a slight lifting of the Soviet gates becomes a possibility.

The famed physicist, Yuri Orlov, 62, Chairman of the Moscow Helsinki (Watch) Group, is set free along with American journalist Nicholas Daniloff. Imprisoned and held in Siberian exile for 10 years, the frail scientist and his wife find warm welcome in America. The release of the Orlovs is in exchange for Gennady Zakharov, held briefly on spy charges by the U.S.

Armand Hammer, American industrialist with a record of high level trading with Moscow, is permitted to fly Genecist David Goldfarb to Newark. From Newark, this courageous dissident who lost a leg in the Battle of Stalingrad during World War II, is brought to New York to be hospitalized for diabetes. A friend of Daniloff, Dr. Goldfarb, when asked by the KGB to bring the American journalist to his home, suspected the Soviet police wanted to trap Daniloff and refused the KGB request.

Each week bring the welcome news of such spins of the wheel of fortune, such transits to freedom in America through the caprice of the moment.

Does Mikhail Gorbachev sanction these and other sudden door openings, including the one for Anatoly Shcharansky, because he is in fear of an ultimate American success in developing Star Wars, the much-debated Strategic Defense Initiative? Can it be that these occasional grants of permanent departure from the Soviet Union may win a year or two of respite from this martial

power structure?

Or can it be that the reports about new economic crisis Moscow is facing impel Gorbachev and his henchmen to court greater contact with Washington. Word about cracks in the economy is more than rumor. Moscow itself reports disappointment in the grain harvest. Some labor collectives lag in affirmative response to Gorbachev's demand for reconstruction. Capital investment is limp.

Above all, the Soviet leader longs for an American-USSR summit of far larger dimensions than the Iceland meetings. And in connection with the hopes riding on such a diplomatic sequel, there may be a turn in events leading to new response to requests for emigration. Vladimir Slepak has wanted out for 16 years; Ida Nudel has campaigned 15 years for exit. Confined to prison, Iosif Begun, Yakov Levin, and Leonid Vovosky all are eager to leave the troubled homeland with a harsh attitude towards Jews.

These are some of the most widely publicized cases. What of the thousands whose names do not appear in the media? Will fortune visit any significant number of them? Barely 100 a month have been allowed to exit currently. This contrasts sharply with the record of permits granted in previous years. For example, in 1981, some 9447 Jews were granted visas.

And what of Andrei Sakharov, the Nobel Prize winner? His wife, Yelena Bonner, is Jewish. He is not. For years, he has been a chief spokesman for Jewish refuseniks. His character is luminous, his courage legendary, his life as exile in Gorky is a saga of horrors, including severe decline in health. For years he has championed the world's oppressed. He has battled for world peace. His name is a brilliant light on the dark pages of modern history. But Soviet functionaries label him an "anti-patriot."

What a precious gift a bridge for freedom would be for him.

J. Paul Getty Trust Gift Of \$1 Million To Hebrew Union College Brings Cultural Center Capital Drive To \$16 Million


The capital fund drive of the Hebrew Union College Cultural Center for American Jewish Life, which will be constructed in Los Angeles, has reached \$16 million with a recent \$1 million gift from the J. Paul Getty Trust. The gift is designated to support the building of new facilities for an expanded HUC Skirball Museum and the Cultural Center.

The Cultural Center, to be located on a 15-acre site in Sepulveda Pass, Los Angeles, will be less than a mile from the planned J. Paul Getty Center and is meant to serve a national constituency. The Skirball Museum, currently located on the Los Angeles campus of Hebrew Union College, will form the nucleus of the Cultural Center which will make available to the public programs in the Jewish historical and cultural experience.

Dr. Uri D. Herscher, executive vice-president of the four-campus Hebrew Union College, noted that, "The Center will underscore the adventure, struggle and opportunity America has provided its diverse religious and ethnic groups."

In addition to the Getty Trust, the Skirball Foundation, the Walter and Elise Haas Fund, the Peter and Mimi Haas Fund, the Frank E. Hurd Foundation, the Ahmanson Foundation and the Roy Disney Family Foundation have contributed to the Cultural Center.

Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion is the nation's oldest institution of higher Jewish studies. It trains rabbis, cantors, religious school professionals, Jewish communal workers and graduate and post graduate scholars at its four campuses in Cincinnati, New York, Los Angeles and Jerusalem.



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