Refusenik's Son Calls On Americans To Step Up Struggle For Soviet Jews

NEW YORK, N.Y. - Former refusenik Aleksandr Slepak told United Jewish Appeal leadership Sunday that the third largest Jewish population in the world is in danger of extinction through persecution and attrition if current Soviet policies prevail. "Until the Gorbachev regime," Slepak said, "nobody dared to plant guns and drugs on Jewish teachers. Nobody dared to be so bold." He called for "all Americans, Jews and non-Jews, to increase the pressure to secure the freedom of the Jewish

His audience, the UJA National Campaign Cabinet, met in Washington, D.C., this week to shape the issues and establish the framework of fund-raising activities to motivate increased support for the coming UJA/Federation Campaign.

Speaking emotionally of his parents, Vladimir and Masha Slepak, whom UJA National Chairman Martin F. Stein visited on a recent trip to Moscow, Slepak said, "We have to make it clear to the Soviets that, whatever the American Administration, we will not accept these ups and downs. My parents and 400,000 other refuseniks have been through five Summits. Every time hope. Every time disappointment, Refuseniks have many serious health problems because of the stress; their life is running out."

The Soviets, he warned, "will not offer 'presents' during this current period of unrest in the White House." Furthermore, he noted, "The

Soviets are blaming Secretary of State (George) Shultz and President Reagan for halting the negotiations on Soviet Jewish emigration that were planned for Reykjavik." After the failure of those meetings, Slepak, in Reykjavik to plead for his parents' release, asked Soviet representatives, "Who gave you the right to tie human beings to weapons -- literally tying bodies to rockets?"

Setting the stage for Campaign planning, National Chairman Stein vowed, "The UJA will continue to focus the attention of the American community on the plight of Soviet Jewry."

He announced that the 1986 Campaign has raised \$656.1 million so far and projected a final Campaign total of \$693 million.

Members: of the NCC participated in discussions of marketing, major gifts strategies, missions and training, chaired by Dr. Julius L. Levy of New Orleans, Marvin Lender of New Haven, Victor Gelb of Palm Beach and Sandra Weiner of Houston. In a panel moderated by UJA President Stanley B. Horowitz, Andrew H. Tisch of New York City reported on a recent trip to Ethiopia and Lender described the aid that the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee is giving to the Polish Jewish community, funds that come from UJA/Federation Campaigns. Heinz Eppler, President of the JDC, supplemented the panel discussions with an overview of JDC activities in all of Eastern Europe. Discussions of Campaign planning were led by

Jerome J. Dick of Washington, D.C., Betsy Gordon of Philadelphia, Marvin Lender, Francine Loeb of Seattle and Dr. Stanley Hersh of Waco, Texas.

Senator-Elect Tim Wirth of Colorado, Israel Consul General Yosef Yaacov and Prof. Gary Tobin of Brandeis University also addressed the UJA.

WASHINGTON — B'nai B'rith International again called on the United States to place Austrian President Kurt Waldheim on its Watch List, which would bar Waldheim from entering this country.

In a statement issued here, Seymour D. Reich, international president of B'nai B'rith, declared that Waldheim's admission, after months of denial, that he took part in a 1942 Nazi operation resulting in the massacre of Yugoslav civilians, "should now put to rest any question" about placing him on the Watch List.

"Mr. Waldheim's disclosure, added to the already substantial body of evidence about his Nazi past, clearly establishes the Austrian president as a war criminal in every legal sense of the word," said Reich.

"We therefore call on Attorney General Edwin" Meese to move expeditiously to place Waldheim on the Watch List so that he is prevented from entering the United States. If the U.S. government is to honor its own laws, such a step is inescapable. The world should know Mr. Waldheim is not welcome here."

B'nai B'rith called on the United States in June and last month to bar Waldheim.

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