

JEWISH NEWS BRIEFS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Former Soviet prisoners Yuri Orlov and Natan Shcharansky, co-founders of the Moscow Helsinki Watch Group, cautioned against an American willingness to be deceived by scant Soviet human rights gestures.

Testifying before a Commission of Inquiry sponsored by the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, (UCSJ), Shcharansky said the U.S. must insist on substantial changes in Soviet human rights performance as an unequivocal precondition to lifting trade embargoes. In this context, he mentioned the recent U.S. decision to sell oil and gas equipment to the Soviets.

Individual Soviet gestures, said Shcharansky, do not indicate any change in their repressive policy, and characterized one on one agreements with the Association of Soviet Lawyers, as "disgraceful."

The Commission was headed by Sen. William Armstrong, (R. CO), co-chair of the Senate Human Rights Caucus, and included former Carter administration advisor Stuart Eizenstat, Sen. Charles Grassley, (R-IA), and former Florida Senator Richard Stone.

TEL AVIV (MDA) — Premature twins born to a member of the U.S. Air Force and his wife, stationed at an Air Force Base in Turkey, were flown to Israel on a Hercules aircraft used as a "flying hospital" by the U.S. Armed Forces, in which incubators had been specially installed to sustain the life of the preemies who were suffering respiratory distress caused by under-developed lungs.

KINDLE THE SHABBAT CANDLES

Friday, Feb. 13.....	5:02 P.M.
Friday, Feb. 20.....	5:09 P.M.
Friday, Feb. 27.....	5:16 P.M.
Friday, March 6.....	5:22 P.M.



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WASHINGTON, D.C. — The national president of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, Pamela B. Cohen, has issued a statement in response to the Soviet announcement that Prisoner of Conscience Zachar Zunshain will be allowed to emigrate at the end of his 3-year prison term.

Said the UCSJ president, "We are pleased that Zachar and his wife, Tatiana, will be free to go on March 6. It is a happy ending for so much pain and suffering. Since his arrest and imprisonment in 1984, Zachar has been confined to the Siberian Gulag and was among the first Soviet Jewish POC's to be severely beaten by prison guards and cellmates."

Cohen said the joy of the moment is blunted by the knowledge that nearly a dozen other Soviet Jews remain in prison camps. She said the Union of Councils will continue to work tirelessly and unceasingly until all Soviet Jews who wish to leave are allowed to do so.

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Immigration to Israel totaled 9,500 in 1986, an 11 percent drop from the previous year according to figures released last week by the Central Bureau of Statistics. The decline was mainly in olim from the Soviet Union and Africa.

Of the 914 Jews reported to have left the USSR last year, only 202 came to Israel. Although 565 Jews arrived from South Africa, more than

double the number in 1985, immigration from Africa as a whole fell by 58 percent.

About 2,000 American Jews immigrated to Israel in 1986, only 100 more than in the previous year. About 1,000 immigrants arrived from France, 800 from Argentina, 600 from the United Kingdom and the rest from other European and Latin American countries.

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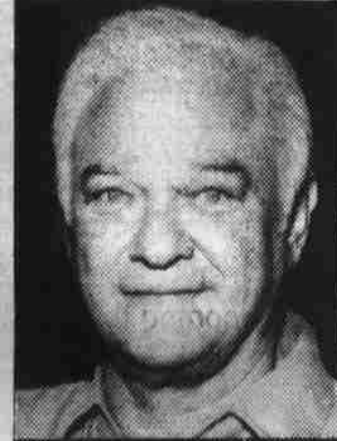
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