

## 5,000 Russian-Hebrew Prayer Books Shipped To Synagogues In USSR With Government Approval



MOSCOW -- Rabbi Arthur Schneier (center), president of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, presents a Russian-Hebrew Pentateuch (chumash), sent to the Soviet Union last April, to two Soviet Jews. As an extension of the agreement reached between Rabbi Schneier and Konstantine Karchev, chairman of the Council of Religious Affairs, the Foundation sent 5000 Hebrew-Russian prayer books (sidurim) to Moscow, recently.

NEW YORK — Five thousand copies of a Hebrew-Russian prayer book for use by Soviet Jews were shipped to Moscow on a Pan-Am flight, recently, it was reported by Rabbi Arthur Schneier, president of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, an inter-religious organization concerned with religious freedom, who sees the move as another step in meeting the "legitimate religious needs of the Jewish community in the Soviet Union."

The prayer books -- sidurim -- were sent to Rabbi Adolph Schayevich of the Moscow Chorale Synagogue by the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, the ACF president reported.

Rabbi Schneier said that the sidurim were the

first officially allowed into the Soviet Union in more than a decade. The prayer books are the most commonly used religious book in Judaism. The shipment follows the transport to Moscow last April of 5,000 copies of a Hebrew-Russian Pentateuch -- the five books of Moses -- also with official Soviet approval. The sidurim will be distributed to synagogues throughout the Soviet Union along with copies of the Pentateuch.

Both shipments were arranged by Rabbi Schneier in meetings with Konstantin Karchev, chairman of the Council of Religious Affairs, USSR Council of Ministers, in periodic meetings between February and June.

In addition to the sidurim and Pentateuchs, Rabbi Schneier noted that a young Russian Jew from Tashkent began studying at the rabbinical seminary in Hungary, after receiving permission from Soviet authorities in February, 1987. He is training to be a ritual circumciser (mohel) and scribe.

Earlier this year, two other Russian students were ordained by the seminary in Hungary, joining three previous seminary graduates who are now serving congregations in the USSR.

Arrangements for Russian students to study at the seminary in Budapest -- the only one of its kind in Eastern Europe -- were completed by Rabbi Schneier in 1974.

Last week, the Foundation shipped 500 kilos of salami from Budapest and 100 boxes of Hanukkah candles as a special gift to the Moscow synagogue's kosher take-out restaurant.

Making religious books available to Jews in the Soviet Union conforms with the Appeal of Conscience Foundation's objective "to strengthen religious freedom in countries around the world," according to Rabbi Schneier. The Foundation represents business and religious leaders from the Roman Catholic, Protestant, Jewish and Eastern Orthodox communities.

Rabbi Schneier is the senior rabbi of Park East Synagogue in Manhattan.

## Israel Won't Ask For Extradition Of Terrorist Who Plotted Lod Massacre

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said that Israel was not contemplating asking Japan for the extradition of Osamu Maruoka, reportedly the No. 2 man in the Japanese Red Army, who helped plot the massacre at Lod Airport in 1972.

Japanese police arrested the 37-year-old Maruoka Nov. 21 as he entered Japan from Hong Kong. Twenty-seven people were killed in the bloodbath at the Israeli airport, now named Ben-Gurion International Airport.

Japanese authorities, who waited several days before announcing Maruoka's apprehension, did not explain how they had tracked and captured the terrorist leader. They said, however, that when caught he had about \$37,000 on him and a passport in the name of someone living in Okinawa. They believe Maruoka may have been planning an attack on the Seoul Olympics to be held next September.

The Israel airport attack was perpetrated by three terrorists, one of whom died in the shootout with Israeli police. The third, Kozo Okamoto, who was released by Israel in a 1985 prisoner exchange involving 1,150 terrorists incarcerated in Israel, went to Libya. Okamoto had been sentenced to multiple life terms for his part in the massacre.

The Japanese Red Army surfaced in the 1960s, supporting Palestinian groups. Since the Lod massacre, it has mounted several attacks, including the hijacking of a Japan Air Lines flight from Amsterdam to Tokyo in 1973, a 1975 attack on the Japanese Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and another hijacking of a Japan Air Lines plane from Bombay to Dhaka, Bangladesh, in 1977.

The current Red Army leader is believed to be a woman, Fusako Shigenobu, 42, thought to be living in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley.

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