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Alpha File Name:

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

ID# 006103
C0165

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: FEBRUARY 10, 1989
NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. GEDALYAH ENGEL
SUBJECT: WRITES CONCERNING REFUSENIK FAMILIES, IGOR
USPENSKY AND WIFE INNA IOFFI AND LEONID AND
YEVGENY SKRYNNIK AND THEIR FAMILIES OF
MOSCOW

		ACTION		DISPOSITION	
ROUTE TO:		ACT	DATE	TYPE	C COMPLETED
OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	CODE	YY/MM/DD	RESP	D YY/MM/DD
BOBBIE KILBERG		ORG	89/02/10		C 89/02/13R
PLS Sir (OOL)	REFERRAL NOTE:	A	89/02/15	TR	C 89/02/15 TR
NSC SCOW	REFERRAL NOTE:	A	89/02/16	TR	C 89/02/16 TR
99 Das	REFERRAL NOTE:	R	89/02/28	TR	C 89/02/28 TR
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				

COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES:
PL MAIL USER CODES: (A) (B) (C)

*ACTION CODES:	*DISPOSITION	*OUTGOING
*	*	*CORRESPONDENCE:
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION	*A-ANSWERED	*TYPE RESP=INITIALS
*C-COMMENT/RECOM	*B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL	*OF SIGNER
*D-DRAFT RESPONSE	*C-COMPLETED	*CODE = A
*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET	*S-SUSPENDED	*COMPLETED = DATE OF
I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC		*OUTGOING
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *		*
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE *		*
*X-INTERIM REPLY *		*

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE
(ROOM 75,OEOP) EXT-2590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
MANAGEMENT.

UNCLASSIFIED
(Classification)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
TRANSMITTAL FORM

S/S 8904413

Date March 9, 1989

For: Mr. Philip Hughes
Executive Secretary
National Security Council
The White House

Reference:

To: President Bush From: Mr. Gedalyah Engel

Date: February 1, 1989 Subject: Uspensky and
Yevgeny Skrynnik--Soviet refuseniks

Referral Dated: February 28, 1989 ID# 006103
(if any)

_____ The attached item was sent directly to the
Department of State

Action Taken:

_____ A draft reply is attached.

_____ A draft reply will be forwarded.

_____ A translation is attached.

XX _____ An information copy of a direct reply is attached.

_____ We believe no response is necessary for the reason
cited below.

_____ The Department of State has no objection to the
proposed travel.

_____ Other (see remarks).

Remarks:

Va Smith for

Director
Secretariat Staff

UNCLASSIFIED

(Classification)



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

March 9, 1989

Mr. Gedalyah Engel
Spokesman, B'nai B'rith Hillel
Foundation at Purdue University
912 West State
West Lafayette, IN 47906

Dear Mr. Engel:

I am responding to your February 1st letter to President Bush regarding the plight of the Uspensky family and Yevgeny Skrynnik, longstanding Soviet refuseniks.

We are following the cases of these refuseniks closely and have raised them a number of times with Soviet officials. Furthermore, they are both on our list of Soviet Jews who repeatedly have been denied exit permission to Israel. We review this list frequently with Soviet officials to emphasize U.S. concern for those forced to stay in the Soviet Union against their will. They will remain on this list until their case is resolved.

Many longterm refusenik cases have been resolved in recent months and we are hopeful that these will be as well. You can rest assured that we will continue our efforts on behalf both the Uspensky family and Mr. Skrynnik. The U.S. Government will also continue to press the Soviet Union to permit its citizens to exercise their basic human rights, including cultural expression and freedom of movement.

Sincerely,

Alexander R. Vershbow
Director,
Office of Soviet Union Affairs

8904413

'89 MAR-02 1:08 AM

T H E W H I T E H O U S E O F F I C E

REFERRAL

FEBRUARY 28, 1989

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:

DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 006103

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED FEBRUARY 1, 1989

TO: PRESIDENT BUSH

FROM: MR. GEDALYAH ENGEL
SPOKESMAN
B'NAI B'RITH HILLEL FOUNDATION AT
PURDUE UNIVERSITY
912 WEST STATE
WEST LAFAYETTE IN 47906

SUBJECT: WRITES CONCERNING REFUSENIK FAMILIES, IGOR
USPENSKY AND WIFE INNA IOFFI AND LEONID AND
YEVGENY SKRYNNIK AND THEIR FAMILIES OF
MOSCOW

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN
TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE
UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE
(OR DRAFT) TO:
AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 91, THE WHITE HOUSE, 20500

SALLY KELLEY
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE SOVIET UNION BASED AT: 6103



B'nai B'rith
HILLEL FOUNDATION at PURDUE UNIVERSITY

RABBI GEDALYAH ENGEL, DIRECTOR

8904413
312 WEST STATE
WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA 47906
317-743-1293
'89 MAR-02 1:08 AM
HOME: 248 LITTLETON
WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA 47906
317-743-1716

February 1, 1989

B. H. Berg
President George Bush
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Bush,

The relationship between America and the U.S.S.R. will depend upon your own ability to communicate with General Secretary Gorbachev. Our community feels that you will be able to continue on the path of President Reagan.

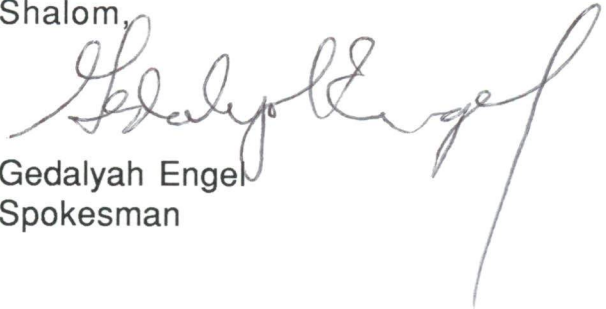
Our community rejoices at the news that Yevgeny Grigorishin of Kiev will soon leave the U.S.S.R. to be reunited in New York with his wife, Toni. However, we are concerned about our two other locally adopted refusenik families, Igor Uspensky and his wife, Inna Ioffi, as well as Leonid and Yevgeny Skrynnik and their families of Moscow.

It would be deeply appreciated by the members of our community were you to indicate to Ambassador Dubinin your own concern for our two other refusenik families.

Our community wishes you success in office. May your concerns on behalf of Americans and citizens of the world be realized in improved international relations.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Shalom,


Gedalyah Engel
Spokesman

GE/bw
Encs.



COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE SOVIET UNION BASED AT:

B'nai B'rith

HILLEL FOUNDATION at PURDUE UNIVERSITY

RABBI GEDALYAH ENGEL, DIRECTOR

912 WEST STATE
WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA 47906
317-743-1293
HOME: 448 LITTLETON
WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA 47906
317-743-1716

January 31, 1989

Ambassador Yuri Dubinin
Embassy of the U.S.S.R.
1115 Sixteenth St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Ambassador Dubinin,

We have received word from the U.S. State Department that Yevgenie Grigorishin has been given permission to leave the U.S.S.R. to be reunited in New York with his wife, Toni.

The enclosed media report indicates how positive this news is locally. Our community has been aware of the developing concern of U.S.S.R. leadership for the Human Rights of refuseniks, guided by General Secretary Gorbachev.

You can help continue to develop the positive feeling between our nations by also obtaining the speedy release of our other two refusenik families. Igor Uspensky and his wife, Inna Ioffi have been waiting since 1979. Leonid Skrynnik applied in 1979, his brother, Yevgeny in 1978. Our community petitioned General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev on behalf of these Moscow families, and we were encouraged by the acceptance of these petitions on December 1 at the U.S.S.R. Embassy in Washington.

Won't you help hasten their reunification with families in Israel and America.

President Bush, beginning his term in office, is responsive to the voice of the American people. You can help our Lafayette community further the relationship with the U.S.S.R. by showing personal concern for the Human Rights of our Lafayette refuseniks.

Shalom,

Gedalyah Engel
Spokesman

GE/bw

cc: President George Bush; Vice President Dan Quayle; Secretary of State James Baker, New York Senators Daniel Patrick Moynihan and Alfonse D'Amato, Indiana Senators Richard Lugar and Dan Coats; Virginia Senators John Warner and Paul Trible Jr.; Illinois Senator Paul Simon

Soviets accept petitions

WEST LAFAYETTE — Petitions with more than 5,000 signatures gathered by the Committee on Human Rights in the Soviet Union were recently accepted by the U.S.S.R. embassy staff in Washington, D.C.

The petitions request exit visas for three refusenik families. Leonid Skrynnik, one of the refuseniks, helped to present the petitions to officials along with his sister, Lilya Schastlivy.

The acceptance of the petitions by the embassy marks the second year petitions have been accepted. Last year, Greg Wilken, a member of Senator and vice-president elect Dan Quayle's staff, was allowed to bring petitions into the embassy on behalf of four families. All four families were later allowed to emigrate.

This marks the second year that petitions have been accepted by the Soviets.

The petitions are seeking exit visas for Leonid Skrynnik and his brother, Yevgeny; Inna Ioffi and her husband, Igor Uspensky as well as their son, Slava; and Evgenie Grigorishin.

Inna Ioffi and her family have been on a hunger strike since Nov. 25 because of the denial for an exit visa for her son Slava. A conference call was placed to the family after the petitions had been presented to the U.S.S.R. embassy staff. Another call was placed to Yevgeny Skrynnik.

JANUARY, 1989

B'NAI B'RITH NEWS

BBW REAFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR USPENSKY'S HUNGER STRIKE

JERUSALEM.—B'nai B'rith Women President Hyla Lipsky and a group of presidents of Jewish women's organizations made a telephone call to Slava Uspensky, the 19-year-old refusenik, who is on the fifth day of his hunger strike in Moscow. Lipsky called to reaffirm the support of the 120,000 members of B'nai B'rith Women.

Lipsky pledged to continue BBW's efforts on behalf of Slava whose story is featured in BBW's photographic exhibit, "Against the Current—Young Soviet Jews."

Igor, Inna and Slava Uspensky have been refused since 1979 on the grounds

that the parents, who are renowned scientists hold state secrets. Slava, who recently applied on his own, was refused on the grounds of his parents' "secrecy." His parents feeling that he has "exhausted all possibilities for an exit visa."

Slava, Igor and Inna Uspensky can be reached in Moscow by calling 434-8357.

Appeals on their behalf can be made to the following Soviet officials: Rudolph Kuznetsov, Chief OVIR, U.L. Ogareva 6, Moscow 103009 - RSFSR, USSR, or Uri Dubinin, Ambassador, Embassy of the USSR, 1125 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036.

According to Purdue Hillel director Rabbi Gedalyah Engel, the petition is also on behalf of the family of Inna Ioffi and her husband Igor Uspensky, who were invited to the American Embassy reception for President Reagan during the last summit meeting in Moscow. Inna and Igor, who first applied for visas in 1979 and now have been told to wait until 1996, are entering the second week of a hunger strike.

Refuseniks end hunger strike saddened by Armenian tragedy

The earthquake in Armenia this past week which left thousands of people dead and resulted in frantic phone calls from relatives in America also served to end a hunger strike of a Moscow refusenik family.

Children from the Lafayette Jewish Community School in West Lafayette celebrated the last day of Chanukah, Sunday, Dec. 11, by sharing their freedom holiday in a conference call with the refusenik family in Moscow.

Inna Ioffi, her husband, Igor Uspensky, and their son, Slava, ended their hunger strike on Thursday, after learning about the earthquake in Armenia. Several of their friends were killed in the disaster.

The hunger strike was initiated by the family to aid their 19-year-old son, Slava, who had been denied his own exit visa because he belonged to a refusenik family. His parents, who are scientists, first made their application in 1979, and continue to be refused for "knowing secrets."

Slava, in response to a question from the children, stated, "I will go to Israel, where my uncle is and my cousin."

Slava's uncle, Alex Ioffi, was allowed to leave the Soviet Union last year when Gorbachev responded to a petition request on behalf of four refusenik

families adopted by the Greater Lafayette Committee on Human Rights in the Soviet Union.

Alex Ioffi, in Israel, joined the children's conference phone call as did Professor Woodford McClellan from Virginia.

McClellan's wife, Irina, was allowed to come to America with her daughter, Lena, three years ago. Petitions on Ioffi family's behalf were accepted at the Soviet Embassy on December 1 in Washington.

The Sunday school conference phone call was chaired by Purdue University's Human Rights Committee co-chairmen, Abby Stein and Eugene Rudkevich. Rudkevich spoke in his native Russian.

About 75 children, ranging from age 6 to 13, sang Chanukah candle lighting blessings for the Moscow family. Igor Uspensky thanked the youngsters for signing petitions expressing support as well as making the phone call to indicate continuing concern for their plight.

Another family on the petition is the Skrynnik brothers of Moscow. Leonid was in Washington as a tourist when the petitions were presented. He has been denied an exit visa since 1975 and his brother, Yevgeny, since 1978.

B'NAI B'RITH NEWS

JANUARY, 1989



ELANA STERN, Secretary of the Purdue B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation collects signatures under the mural in Stewart Center during Lafayette's Human Rights Week on behalf of three refusenik families.

Over 5,000 signatures were collected in a petition addressed to Mikhail Gorbachev asking his help in reunifying Inna Ioffi, her husband Igor Uspensky, Yevgeny and Leonid Skrynnik and their families and an American Antonette Bohonvsky Grigorishin from her husband in Kiev, Evgenie.

Soviet Accepts Hillel Petition

WASHINGTON, DC --

Representatives of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation, accompanied by a Jewish refusenik and two former refuseniks, presented a petition bearing more than 5,000 signatures to authorities at the Embassy of the USSR. Soviet officials accepted without comment the petition calling for the right of emigration for three families still being denied family reunification.

The signatures were gathered by students affiliated with the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation of Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. Following delivery of the petition, Lilya Schastlivy and her brother Leonid Skrynnik repaired to the offices of B'nai B'rith International to telephone brother Yevgeny Skrynnik. Moscow, Lilya has not seen Yevgeny, who needs medical attention in the West, for 13 years.

According to Purdue Hillel director Rabbi Gedalyah Engel, the petition is also on behalf of the family of Inna Ioffi and her husband Igor Uspensky, who were invited to the American Embassy reception for President Reagan during the last summit meeting in Moscow. Inna and Igor, who first applied for visas in 1979 and now have been told to wait until 1996, are entering the second week of a hunger strike.

B'NAI B'RITH NEWS
JANUARY, 1989

Life & Times

Tuesday, January 10, 1989

Refusenik with local backing to be released soon

By JOHN NORBERG
Journal and Courier

A man whose lengthy efforts to leave the Soviet Union won support from Lafayette area people will be released, a U.S. State Department official says. Yevgeniy Grigorishin has been granted permission to leave the Soviet Union and come to the United States to live with his wife, Toni Bohonovsky, in New York City.

Grigorishin is one of three people whose cases have been taken up by the West Lafayette-based Committee On Human Rights In The Soviet Union.

Last fall, 5,000 Lafayette area people signed a petition asking that Grigorishin be allowed to emigrate. The petition and signatures were given to officials at the Soviet Embassy in Washington, D.C. Rabbi Gedalyah Engel, of the West Lafayette Human Rights Committee, says he received word of the decision from John M. Evans, acting director of the office of Soviet Union Affairs in the state department.

He said the efforts of Lafayette area people in signing the petitions and committee efforts to gain support for their cause from U.S. Senators and other officials helped win Grigorishin's release.

lease.

All the Soviet action on his case came after the petitions were delivered on Dec. 1.

Bohonovsky met Grigorishin in the Soviet Union while she was on a study program. The Soviet government twice denied them permission to marry and then would not allow them to meet. But, last summer she was permitted to visit and they married in September.

Grigorishin had been sentenced to a labor camp in the Soviet Union for a five-year term, and it took verbal complaints by the U.S. officials to win his release

from prison.

Engel said the most recent release makes him optimistic more people will be allowed out.

"We are very optimistic because we considered this case more critical because here was a man who was actually put in a labor camp," Engel said. "By comparison, our other two families we're supporting are simple cases."

He said U.S. officials assure him they are continuing to press for release of other people who want to leave the Soviet Union and whose emigration has been blocked.

Around Campus

Local petition paves way for freedom of Soviet Refuseniks

By ROB SWANSON

Local interest in granting freedom to several Soviet Refusenik families has helped result in "concrete progress towards their release," the Committee on Human Rights in the Soviet Union, 912 West State St., announced Monday.

A petition for the release of Yevgeniy Grigorishin, a Soviet citizen who has been denied the right to be with his wife in the United States since 1986, was received in Washington on December 1, according to Rabbi Gedalyah Engel, spokesman for the committee. Its arrival came one week before Gorbachev's visit with President Reagan.

"The petition apparently made a good impact because we just received word that the Soviets have just granted exit permission to Grigorishin," Engel said. "We hope he will be able to join his wife in New York real soon."

Campus students and faculty generated over 5,000 signatures for the petition last semester, according to Engel.

"The Soviet administration respects university students a great deal more than your average people since there aren't that many universities in the Soviet Union," he said. "So when Soviet officials received all these signatures from Purdue University, they listened very carefully."

Grigorishin, who has been separated from his fiancée (now wife) since their engagement in 1986, caught the attention of human rights activists and political leaders across the country when the Soviet government sentenced him to five years in a labor camp on fabricated extortion charges.

"But once the spotlight of the U.S. State Department was on them, they let him go," Engel said.

"We have been concerned by the unwillingness of the Soviet Union to respect human rights such as freedom of movement," John Evans, acting director for the Office of Soviet Union Affairs, said.

"In Bilateral exchanges with the Soviets," he said, "including this month's meeting in New York."

made it unequivocally clear that their abuses of individual rights have a serious detrimental effect on U.S. - Soviet relations. We will continue to press the Soviets to live up to their commitments on human rights."

The committee's petition also urged for the release of two other families in the Soviet Union according to Engel. "The Soviets recently lifted state secrecy restrictions for 60 long-term refuseniks," he said, "but the list did not include these other two families on the petition."

However, at least one political figure is optimistic about their release.

"We will continue raising these cases with the Soviets until they are positively resolved," Nelson Ledsky, senior director for European and Soviet Affairs on the National Security Council, said.

Engel says it is likely that there will be another petition for the release of other Refuseniks next fall. "As long as there are human rights being denied, there will be a drive to free them."

Lafayette refusenik granted right to leave

January 12, 1989

THE LAFAYETTE LEADER

The Lafayette community's adopted refusenik, Yevgeniy Grigorishin of Kiev, will leave his wife, Antonette Bohonovsky, according to John M. Evans, Acting Director of the Office of Soviet Union Affairs, U.S. State Department.

Grigorishin is one of three families named on petitions last fall. Signatures were collected at Purdue-based local churches by the Lafayette-based Committee on Human Rights in the Soviet Union.

After the petitions were accepted at the U.S.S.R. Embassy, Grigorishin's who lives in New York, was optimistic about her husband gaining an exit visa. President Reagan has been concerned about the plight of Grigorishin, who had been given a five-year labor camp sentence, and publicly expressed his indignation.

Soviet Union (CHRSU). The petitions, addressed to General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev, were presented to officials at the Soviet Embassy in Washington, D.C., on December 1.

He said the petitions were accepted at the U.S.S.R. Embassy, Grigorishin's who lives in New York, was optimistic about her husband gaining an exit visa. President Reagan has been concerned about the plight of Grigorishin, who had been given a five-year labor camp sentence, and publicly expressed his indignation.

Toni Bohonovsky, who has been separated from her husband since her return to the U.S. in October, is looking forward to the end of an ordeal. In 1986, their plans for being married were blocked twice. Now Toni is counting the days until they will be reunited.

In a telephone conversation with her on January 10, she very simply stated, "Attention brings results! We thank the Lafayette community for pushing the right buttons."