

# 11 Soviet Women Appeal Through Hadassah for Reunion With Their Families in Israel

NEW YORK (JTA) — Eleven Soviet Jewish women have issued an appeal to "the women of the world" to intercede with the Soviet government for permission to emigrate to Israel. Ten women are from Moscow and one from Riga. The unusual document, in Russian, addressed "To You, Woman" was received by Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America. It was read in English to the 200 Jewish leaders, at the group's mid-winter conference.

The Soviet women stated that their petitions to go to Israel to join "our husbands and brothers, our parents and children from whom we have been torn asunder" have been repeatedly refused by Soviet authorities.

"And nothing helps us in our degrading appeals to indifferent officials of the ministry of interior affairs — neither our petitions nor the many months of waiting, nor tears, nor demands," they continued. "As there is no formal ban on leaving the USSR, we get our refusals always orally (as if they felt that they are doing something that is vile and unlawful) and in a manner of irritation. They refuse us behind closed doors, being afraid of publicity, and at the same time, at the other end of the world, from high international tribunes, they proclaim loudly that in the USSR there allegedly are no persons desirous of going to Israel. And what about us? And what about thousands like us? We who only live with the hope of going to Israel!"

Their appeal expresses thanks "to the peoples of the Soviet Union who had for centuries given shelter to our much-suffering people" and then adds, "But today in the second half of the 20th Century, we have our Jewish State. Whether it is good or bad, it is our country. This desire towards national reunification on the land of Israel is the inevitable end to the many centuries of the wanderings of the Jews. This is our right, just like it is the right of the Armenians to live in Armenia, of the Poles in Poland. And it must be understood rightly." The closing paragraph pleads for intercession with the Soviet government. It reads: "And we appeal to you, Woman, no matter who you are—a student in a ministry, a salesgirl or a cinema star, a housewife or a queen, we ask you, Woman, help us. Apply you, too, to the Soviet government with the words: 'Let them go in peace. Don't keep them by force.'"

Hadassah relayed this appeal to its more than 1,300 chapters and groups throughout the country, urging that it be given the widest publicity. It also called upon the American women's organizations to support the appeal nationally and locally, "in the hope that the government of the USSR will respond by opening the door for them and for all Jews who wish to emigrate to Israel and other countries."

A resolution praising President Nixon's assurance that the United States "is prepared to supply military equipment necessary to support the efforts of friendly governments like Israel to defend the safety of their people," was adopted by the conference.

The resolution called upon the United States to "provide Israel with the military and economic means to deter the Arab states, heavily armed by the USSR and France, from initiating another war," and "to exert its influence to bring the Arab states and Israel together in direct negotiations." It endorsed the resolution adopted by the emergency conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations held in Washington Jan. 25, which called for the withdrawal of Secretary of State Rogers' proposals for the Middle East so that "the Arab-Israeli negotiations which President Nixon has called for will be undertaken without pre-condition."

Another resolution protested the action of the French government "in arming Israel's enemies bent on its destruction while denying to Israel the 50 Mirage jets already bought and paid for." It expressed the hope that President Pompidou during his visit to the United States, "will be persuaded to alter a policy that cynically disregards the French commitment to the principles of liberty, equality and brotherhood."

A resolution on Jews in Arab countries called upon the secretary general of the United Nations to "use every possible measure to protect the human rights and

dignity of Jews who still remain in Iraq, Egypt and Syria and to assure that those who choose to emigrate will be enabled to do so."

A resolution on Soviet Jewry censured the USSR's "continuing policy of discrimination against its 3,000,000 Jewish nationals," and stated that "persistent anti-Israel propaganda in the Soviet press, TV and radio with its overtones of anti-Semitism adds to the mounting tension of daily life for Jews in the USSR."

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The Israel Embassy here transmitted to Vice President Spiro Agnew, presiding officer of the U.S. Senate, the plea adopted by the Knesset to the parliaments of the free world asking them to intercede in behalf of the Jews of the Soviet Union who wished to emigrate to Israel but were not being permitted to leave the Soviet Union.

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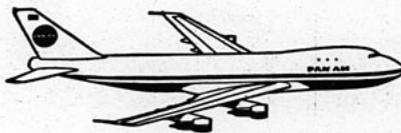
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#### Youth

'Tis a maxim with me to be young as long as one can: there is nothing can pay one for that invaluable ignorance which is the companion of youth; those sanguine groundless hopes, and that lively vanity, which make all the happiness of life. To my extreme mortification I grow wiser every day.

— Lady Mary Wortley Montagu.