



Moscow that day had been beaten. "That's not glasnost," he declared, "that's Joe Stalin."

And Yosef Mendeleovich, whose 11-year imprisonment was the longest of all refuseniks, spoke with bitter passion when he declared that Gorbachev "thinks he can trick you" by releasing a few token Jews. He called on President Reagan to link trade with human rights, and closed with the only reference of the day to God and Torah by asserting: "We are one people with one Hashem (God), one Torah and one land, Eretz Yisroel."

Some speakers linked the Soviet Jewry struggle to the upcoming holiday of Chanukah. Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. Moshe Arad expressed Israel's "total solidarity" with the rally and referred to the Jews of the USSR as "the modern-day Maccabees."

Shoshana Cardin of Baltimore, co-chair of the Summit Task Force, noted that Chanukah teaches us that "each generation must wage that struggle" with the oppressor. "Let the word go forth," she said, "that Jews have gathered here in larger numbers than ever before to re-dedicate that struggle."

An Eloquent Wiesel

Perhaps most eloquent was Nobel Peace Laureate Elie Wiesel, who began by noting that "this is a day of pride, but also a day of melancholy. We have been waiting for this day for 20 years, and it has taken 20 years for

all of us to be here." He mused that had there been such an outpouring of protest for the Jews of Europe in the 1940s, many may have been saved. "But too many of us were silent then. We are not silent today.

"We are here because we must be here," he said, to "arouse compassion, not confrontation; to tear down walls, not to build them." Wiesel said there must be linkage between trade and human rights and added that if Gorbachev wants to be trusted, he can help prove he is worthy of our trust by allowing all Jews who wish to leave the USSR to do so.

Among the other speakers were Senate Minority Leader Robert Dole of Kansas; Rep. Jim Wright (D-Texas); Rep. John Lewis, representing the civil rights movement; Helen Jackson, widow of Sen. Henry Jackson; Governor Kean of New Jersey; William Atwell, chairman of the Canadian Parliamentarians; Rev. Arie Brouwer, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches; Bishop William Keeler, of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops; Rabbi Gilbert Klapperman, president of the Synagogue Council of America; Martin Stein, chairman of the United Jewish Appeal; Robert Loup, co-chairman of the Summit Task Force; and Sen. Paul Sarbanes (D-Md.) and Rep. Jack Kemp (R-N.Y.), co-chairs of the Congressional Coalition for Soviet Jews as introducers.

A number of refuseniks who have been released from the USSR lit



Mary Travers and Peter Yarrow: "Don't Let the Light Go Out."

candles on a giant menorah at the back of the podium, including Vladimir Slepak, Yuli Edelshtein, Ida Nudel and Sharansky.

Not surprisingly, the program took longer than planned, with so many speakers, though the pace was smooth and the speeches were brief. Organizers worked mightily to keep partisan politics out of the event, given that a number of presidential contenders (including Alexander Haig and Sen. Albert Gore) were on

hand. Organizers were upset with Jack Kemp for allegedly violating his agreement to simply introduce a refusenik speaker, and with Gordon Zacks, whose introduction of Vice President Bush sounded like a campaign speech.

Musical entertainment was provided by the Jewish band, Safam, as well as Pearl Bailey, who sang "Let My People Go," and Peter Yarrow and Mary Travers, who sang several

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