



Noam Koenigsberg in the Shacharit service at Metro's International Terminal.

# A White Hat Experience

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**6**:45 a.m. We could be called the white hat brigade, but we didn't know it then in the pre-dawn dampness. The temperatures were in the 20s and my sleepy eyes were not fully open in the parking lot in front of Jacque's restaurant on Telegraph Road. The milling throng, estimated at 400 who took advantage of the free busses to the airport, seemed in no hurry to climb aboard as we said good morning and found travel companions.

Mike Winkelman, bus leader for the 32 earlybirds on one of the first United Hebrew busses to leave for the airport, put the weather into perspective: "The weather in Washington is the same as here, but in Moscow it is 10 degrees below zero."

Winkelman became active in the Jewish Community Council's Detroit Committee for Soviet Jewry several years ago after traveling to the Soviet Union. Sunday morning, he explained the Soviet Jewry emigration process to his bouncing audience, and then we settled in to watch the orange

sunrise over Dearborn as we rode down the Southfield Freeway toward the airport. We started to exit I-94 at Middlebelt, but continued on to Merimian Road as thoughts of Flight 255 passed through my mind.

**7:25 a.m.** Metro Airport's International Terminal was starting to get crowded. Not only were 400 persons coming to the airport by bus, but they were being joined by nearly 500 others who were flying to Washington for the Soviet Jewry rally. Two or three college and high school students carried furled, home-made banners to drag aboard the three chartered aircraft, while hundreds of D.C.-bound demonstrators and several unlucky commercial charter groups milled around the ticket counters.

The Michigan flying delegation to Washington included members of the Ann Arbor and Bay City Jewish communities, and a contingent from Toledo. Chartered buses also made the long trek overnight from Flint, Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids.

As the masses of humanity formed into lines, one harried traveler squeezed through the throng to ask,

"Is this the plane to Aruba? Has it left yet?"

Meanwhile, a large contingent of Michigan State Temple Youth, headed by 17-year-old Marc Israel, formed a circle by the escalator and began an impromptu sing-a-long. Song leader Nathan Ellsberg of New York had joined the group for the weekend, which included a Friday night program at Temple Kol Ami featuring Keith Braun and his recently-released Soviet wife, Svetlana.

Above the MSTY group, at the top of the escalator, a minyan of male Jews donned talit and tefillin for morning prayers.

**9 a.m.** The Michigan contingent prepares to board its aircraft, bound for Washington-Baltimore International and Dulles airports. Among the crowd are 14 Community Jewish High School students, accompanied by principal Phyllis Domstein. Fares for the students were lowered through scholarships provided by the United Hebrew School Woman's Auxiliary and the Detroit District of the Zionist Organization of America.

Diane Klein walked through the



Joel Jacob:  
Demanding freedom.

crowd, distributing six-inch, white-on-blue Hadassah pins until her supply of 250 was exhausted. Joel and Shelley Tauber edged through the crowd, heading for the "Plane C" boarding gate with teenage children and huge boxes of doughnuts in tow for all the passengers on the big DC-8.

But everyone was served a surprise breakfast, compliments of Borman's Inc. Passengers were told to