

THE JEWISH NEWS

THIS ISSUE 60¢

SERVING DETROIT'S JEWISH COMMUNITY

DECEMBER 18, 1987 / 27 KISLEV 5748

Lack Of Action Disappoints Wiesel

Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel has some suggestions for Reagan, Gorbachev, and the Jewish community in the area of human rights for Soviet Jewry

ALAN HITSKY
Associate Editor

Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel believes the Ronald Reagan-Mikhail Gorbachev summit meeting last week was a positive step. He sees the Dec. 6 Washington mobilization for Soviet Jewry on the eve of the summit as "the only way we can show our solidarity." And he thanks Gorbachev for improving conditions inside the Soviet Union.

"But these are gestures," says Wiesel, speaking in Detroit last week for the opening of the local Allied Jewish Campaign. He suggests that President Reagan should sponsor an international summit meeting on human rights to seriously address human rights questions throughout the world because, obviously, the Reagan-Gorbachev summit "did not produce the results we wanted on human rights."

"The appropriate gesture," says Wiesel, would be a human rights summit at Auschwitz. That would be a meeting "with some imagination, some poetry." And as long as Wiesel is changing summit sites, he proposes having the next nuclear arms reduction talks at Hiroshima. "It would certainly point to the failure of humankind to prevent" the nuclear tragedy of Hiroshima.

When questioned at a news conference about the effect of the summit on Ethiopian Jewry, on Afghanistan and other issues, Wiesel admits that some progress was made, "but I am most disappointed about human rights. Everyone recognizes the absence of human rights in the Soviet Union."

President Reagan, Wiesel says, should have responded to Gorbachev's statement that he is not on trial here on human rights by saying, "You are not on trial. But we must discuss to-



Elie Wiesel: Jewish linkage.

day's problems, not just tomorrow's problems.' Perhaps Mr. Reagan did say this," Wiesel believes.

If not concrete results in the area of human rights, Wiesel was hoping that the Washington summit would have produced a statement "to give people hope. Why shouldn't they have come out with a few words?" he asks.

In advance of the Dec. 6 rally in Washington, Wiesel was approached "on the highest levels" to withdraw his name and not participate. The Soviet representatives tried to assure him that they were working hard on human rights issues, "but naturally I was not convinced."

Continued on Page 16



CLOSE-UP

GOING TO THE TOP

Women in business are finding greater acceptance than in the past

CONTENTS PAGE 7