

THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY FOR SOVIET JEWRY
Suite 308
203 West 86th Street
New York, New York 10024

June, 1970

Dear Rabbi Lamm:

You might be interested to know that we have gotten together as representatives of various campuses in the New York area to establish a committee which will work on behalf of Soviet Jewry. Our purpose is not to compete with existing organizations, but to supplement them.

The enclosed minutes of our first meeting should explain what we stand for and what kinds of activities we plan to encourage.

We plan to be in touch with you and to seek your advice. We hope that you will volunteer whatever help you can give us. It will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

The University Community for
Soviet Jewry

MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY FOR SOVIET JEWRY

On June 1, 1970 representatives from a number of New York campuses got together to organize a committee whose purpose shall be to stimulate and coordinate activities on behalf of Soviet Jewry. Present at the meeting were representatives of the following campuses: JTS, CCNY, Queens College, YU, Teacher's College. We hope that in the future every New York campus will be represented.

This committee, tentatively named the University Community for Soviet Jewry, shall concern itself primarily with activities on the various campuses in the New York area.

It is NOT our purpose to compete with exsisting organizations, or to duplicate their work. Rather, we wish to supplement their endeavours and be active in areas they are not. We will coordinate our activities with theirs and promote their projects when possible. To this end we have appointed a liason - Benjy Lunzer (CCNY) - whose duty it shall be to maintain constant contact with these organizations.

The following is a list of projects and proposals we will attempt to initiate and carry out:

- 1) Composing of flyers and their distribution on campuses, directed at making the Jewish students aware of and concerned with, their Jewishness in general and the problem of Soviet Jewry in particular. Each campus leader shall attempt to formulate the text of said flyer so as to be most effective on his campus.

- 2) arranging for semi-annual distribution of appropriate materials at every registration.

- 3) obtaining as many people as possible to volunteer for a mass fast (in rotation) and/or picketing in front of the UN on Sept. 22, for the opening session of the general assembly. Attempts will be made to work through NAJYC, Young Israel, USY, Yavneh, etc.

- 4) injecting the discussion of Soviet Jewry into exsisting Jewish Studies courses (e.g. Jewish history) on the various campuses. In this connection we will get in touch with Dr. Rackman who is heading the the establishment of a Jewish Studies major for the City University. We will seek advice regarding syllabus and bibliography.

- 5) Establishing a one-credit course on the history (recent and current) of the Jews in the Soviet Union. This course will be in the form a series of lectures by prominent professors in the fields of the humanities and the social sciences. Such a course was set up through the initiative of the San Francisco Action Group on Soviet Jewry and seems to have been a success. We will contact them for information.

- 6) Influencing organizations (e.g. Yavneh, USY, Y.I. etc.) which have weekends regularly, to devote one Shabbaton to Soviet Jewry.
- 7) Promoting an evening of culture (e.g. concert with T. Bikel, Shlomo Carlebach, Jo Amar, etc.) dedicated to Soviet Jewry. Such an enjoyable evening would attract crowds and still prove valuable in getting a message across.
- 8) A city-wide teach-in on Soviet Jewry. Workshops.
- 9) Pushing for one Shabbat to be devoted to Soviet Jewry - Nationwide.
- 10) Liberty rally at Statue of Liberty.
- 11) Utilizing the traditional Jewish weapons of prayer and fast on behalf of Soviet Jewry. (These are activities in which the broadest spectrum of Jewish ideology and belief can participate).
- 12) Capitalizing on an aroused interest on the part of the Jewish campus community by providing inquiries with a list of "Things you can do to help."
- 13) Engaging and consulting with individuals knowledgeable in public relations and with individual professors on campuses sympathetic to our cause, to help with some or all of the above projects.
- 14) maintaining contact with the exsisting organizations (i.e. SSSJ, AJCSJ, NAJYC, AJCongress, etc.) in order to be able to synchronize our activities with theirs, and to assist them when possible.
- 15) Exchanging new materials and new ideas at our meetings.

Our next meeting is scheduled for 7:30 P. M. on June 15, 1970, at Yeshiva University.

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Soviet Jewry