

THE MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL
NEW YORK

Date: 4/29/70

From: Jane Gatchie

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To: Rabbi Lamm

- I thought you
might like to see a
copy of this since I'm
sure you'll never see
it in print!

At least the
truth will be on
record somewhere in
the basement file
room of the Times.
A good bye to

you & your family -
See you then -

Jane

90 Riverside Drive
New York, New York
April 29, 1970

John B. Oakes, Editorial Page Editor
The New York Times
229 West 43rd Street
New York, New York 10036

To the Editor:

As a participant in the Exodus March for Soviet Jewry, held on Sunday, April 26, 1970, I feel I must correct certain inaccuracies and omissions contained in Irving Spiegel's coverage of the march; (N.Y. Times, Monday, 3/27/70, p. 18, col. 1-4).

The number of participants was estimated by march officials at 35,000, and by individual policemen at approximately 40,000. The group, in part composed of concerned Jewish youth, also included a substantial percentage of adults over thirty, some from states as far away as Massachusetts and Pennsylvania, as well as all parts of New Jersey and Connecticut, and upstate New York.

The tone of the march was solemn, all songs and chants carefully selected to be in keeping with the Exodus and Freedom themes of Passover, during which festival the march was held. Many marchers carried cards bearing the names of Soviet Jews, signatories of letters and appeals for freedom published recently in western newspapers.

At the completion of the march, from the Soviet Mission on East 67th street to the Isaiah Wall at 45th street and United Nations Plaza, a two hour ceremony was held. Among the speakers at the ceremony were; Senator Jacob K. Javits, Theodore F. Sorensen, former special counsel to President John F. Kennedy, Representative Richard L. Ottinger, and Arthur Goldberg, former associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court and ambassador to the United Nations. Senator Javits, in his remarks, mentioned the ironical fact that the Soviet Union was a signatory of a recent U.N. resolution pledging to stamp out racial discrimination wherever it exists, while she herself encourages just such discrimination against her own Jewish citizens.

Mr. Sorensen repeated remarks he courageously made to Russian leaders during his recent trip to the U.S.S.R., pleading for the release of those Russian Jews who wish to emigrate. Rep. Ottinger pointed out that concerned citizens must not only make their views known to the U.S.S.R. but to our own leaders, who have recently

been less than just in their response to Israel's requests to purchase materiel desperately needed for her military defense.

Other speakers in support of the Exodus March included N.Y. State Attorney General Louis Lefkowitz, and Representative James Scheur. Present at the march, but unable to remain for the ceremonies were Representative Jonathan Bingham and Paul O' Dwyer.

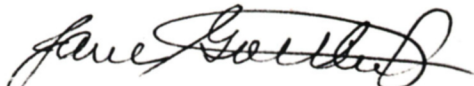
The Exodus theme of the ceremonies was further emphasized by their moderator, Rabbi Norman Lamm, chairman of the New York Conference for Soviet Jewry, in his remarks. Rabbi Lamm explained the meaning of the "Dayenu" (It would have been enough) portion which is read in the Haggadah of Passover. He stated that the Soviet Jews have truly had "dayenu", enough persecution on all levels and we, their American brethren, demand their freedom to practice their religion within the U.S.S.R. and through emigration to Israel.

Russian and Jewish folk songs of freedom were sung during the ceremonies, by Shoshana Damari, the Israeli singer, and the Reverend Shlomo Carlebach, a noted Hasidic folk singer.

I should like also, for the record, to comment here on the tactful cooperation of the N.Y.C. Police Department with Exodus March officials and participants.

It occurs to me that perhaps the New York Times correspondent was unable to remain for the entire proceedings and perhaps wrote his article with incomplete knowledge of the ceremonies that actually took place. In that event, I must humbly suggest that it is the duty of the world's newspaper of record, to cover completely and record accurately, events which occur within that world.

Sincerely yours,


Jane Gottlieb