

NEW YORK CONFERENCE ON SOVIET JEWRY

Planning Committee Meeting  
October 21, 1969

Rabbi Norman Lamm, Chairman -- Presiding

M I N U T E S

PRESENT: Abraham J. Bayer - NCRAC; Jacob Birnbaum - SSSJ; David Geller - AJCommittee; Janet Goller - AJCongress; Rabbi Louis Ginsburg - National Conference of Synagogue Youth/UOJCA; Mel Klarfeld - B'nai B'rith; Rabbi Norman Lamm - The Jewish Center; Jack E. Levine - Free Sons of Israel; Arthur Rosenbluth - B'nai B'rith; Rabbi Elkanah Schwartz - UOJCA; Benjamin Silverman - Jewish War Veterans.

The meeting opened with a review of the October 2nd Celebration and the following recommendations were made:

- 1) Alternate indoor quarters should be arranged any time an outdoor demonstration is scheduled in order to prepare for inclement weather.
- 2) Petitions should be circulated at every demonstration.

The Committee then discussed the advisability of continuing outdoor demonstrations, and it was the overwhelming consensus that such demonstrations must be continued, while at the same time we develop new programmatic vehicles to publicize the plight of Soviet Jewry. It was announced that on December 10th - Human Rights Day - the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry was calling on the Governors in each state to issue a proclamation on behalf of Soviet Jewry. A Proclamation Sub-Committee for New York was appointed consisting of Abe Bayer, Mel Klarfeld, Jack Levine, Arthur Rosenbluth and Benjamin Silverman.

It was decided that we must plan for some Passover demonstration using the theme of "Let My People Go". A special committee will be appointed which will include Jacob Birnbaum, to propose plans for this demonstration.

The Committee also discussed the possibility of pageants wherein each organization would make some contribution. Another suggestion was an indoor event, possibly the performance of a cantata composed by Cantor Kwartin. In addition to holiday-connected demonstrations

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and other specific events, it was felt that the N.Y. Conference should develop some program of an on-going nature. Suggestions for this program included:

- 1) A seminar on Soviet Jewry
- 2) An in-service course for teachers and students for which they could obtain credit.
- 3) The construction of a monument to Babi-Yar.

It was felt that these types of projects are most important and a sub-committee was appointed to study them further in order to report back to our general meeting. The following were appointed to this sub-committee: Rabbi Alkanah Schwartz, David Geller, Janet Goller.

Since none of the representatives of youth organizations were able to attend, it was recommended that David Geller contact the various youth groups and ask them to appoint representatives who could become members of the above-mentioned committees.

It was decided that our general meeting will be held on Monday, November 10th, at 5:00 P.M., at the office of NCRAC.