

RABBI NORMAN LAMM  
THE JEWISH CENTER  
181 WEST 86TH STREET  
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10024  
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SCHUYLER 4-8511

April 5, 1973

Mr. Herbert Tenzer  
235 East 42nd Street  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Tenzer:

The following are the facts in the case of the Jewish family whom I am trying to help emigrate to Israel.

Dr. Benjamin Josephovitz Shapira, of 21 A"/37 Frunza Street, Belgorod Oblastnoi, USSR, is a 40-year old chemical engineer. His wife, Margareta, is 37 years old and is a teacher. They have a 12 year-old daughter. Dr. Shapira is the only son of Rabbi and Mrs. S. Joseph Shapira who emigrated from Czernowitz-Bucovina to Israel in 1967. They reside at 14/5 Almagor Street, Neveh Sharet, Tel Aviv.

Dr. Shapira has applied six times for permission to emigrate and be reunited with his parents. The last such application was on February 5, 1973. All have been turned down, and no serious reason offered for it. The result of his requests has been that since last July he lost his job as a lecturer in chemistry in the University of Belgorod, and has remained unemployed save for some temporary unimportant work.

As stated his sixth application was made on February 5, 1973. All six were presented to the local authority, Col. Alexander Ivanovitz Epichin in Belgorod Oblastnoi, and not to Moscow.

On March 15, 1973, he went to the Home Ministry, Central OVIR, and they promised to look into the matter. They asked Col. Epichin for his answer, but he has not replied other than a vague assertion that the local organization has to meet on the problem.

I have written to various Jewish organizations; to President Nixon and Mr. Waldheim; to Ambassador Dobrynin, Mr. Kosygin,

and Mr. Brezhnev. So far, nothing has happened. Rabbi Shapira's letters are agonizing and heart-breaking.

I have contacted Dr. Prat, who has nothing substantive to add to my plan. Mr. Jerry Goodman of the American Conference for Soviet Jewry recommends that Senator Javitz be used only if he feels that he has not over-extended himself in using up his contacts with Dobrynin. What we do not want is a perfunctory letter which will remain ineffective. Goodman further suggests that you might know some non-Jewish businessmen who have some influence with the Russian or, even better, perhaps Cardinal Cook or one of his people, especially in light of the fact that Dr. Benjamin Shapira is an observant Jew.

Now, Mr. Tenzer, it would be a great favor indeed if you could prevail on Senator Javitz or Senator Buckley or some other distinguished personality, to intercede on Dr. Shapira's behalf.

I hope and pray that before Passover you shall have been instrumental in securing the liberation and redemption of these unfortunate people, so mercilessly caught up in a cruel accident of history.

Sincerely,

RABBI NORMAN LAMM

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