

NEW YORK CONFERENCE FOR SOVIET JEWRY  
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DIGEST OF STATEMENT BY RABBI NORMAN LAMM, CHAIRMAN  
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We are here, representing all of New York Jewry, to express three central themes: sorrow, solidarity, and protest. Our sorrow concerns the condition of three million Soviet Jews who have had to bear fifty years of Communist repression, and cultural and religious deprivation.

We have gathered too to demonstrate our solidarity with young Russian Jews who, after three generations of enforced alienation, have rediscovered their Jewish identities and on Simchat Torah defiantly express it by singing and dancing in front of synagogues in the major Russian cities. We are doing so here three days in advance, resolving that we will not forget them -- not until they are free.

We are also here to protest -- because we are Jews and because of our commitment to human dignity. We protest the condition of Russian Jews as the chief victims of residual Stalinism. We protest the discrimination against Jews in denying them cultural and religious rights granted to other minorities -- a denial which violates the Soviet Constitution. We demand that the right granted by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights -- the right to leave any country -- be given to Russian Jews.

Let them live -- or let them leave.