The Center for Russian Jewry

Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry

200 WEST 72nd STREET • SUITES 30-31 • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10023 (212) 799-8900 (212) WA 8-7451

March 25, 1974

Rabbi Norman Lamm The Jewish Center 131 West 86th Street New York, N.Y. 10024

Dear Rabbi Lamm:

Alexi Tummerman, who was one of the top dissidents in Moscow, is now in New York. He needs to be put on NYANA's "dole" list -- he came here through the Tolstoy Foundation -- and I believe your help can be very valuable.

In the USSR, Mr. Tummerman performed the invaluable service of helping to organize public actions and, most importantly, organized a system of passing documents and appeals to the West. A good number of Soviet Jews who have received permission or whose cases were publicized owe their thanks to him. In retaliation, Alexi was imprisoned numerous times, including incarceration in mental hospitals.

When Mr. Tummerman came to Vienna, he went to the American Embassy and told them he wish to go to the U.S. They sent him to the Tolstov Foundation. As a consequence, NYANA seems unwilling to aid him.

It's unbelievable that a man such as Alexi Tummerman, who litera lly risked his life for fellow Jews and dissidents, should be subjected to such humiliation. Can you write

, to straighten this matter out? We have written, as has Malcolm Hoenlein, but the more leaning the better.

Sincerely yours,

Glenn Richter National Coordinator, SSSJ New York Coordinator, CFRJ

GOVERNING BOARD Rabbi Steven Riskin, Chairman; Professor Irving Greenberg, Vice-Chairman; Professor Michael Wyschogrod, Vice-Chairman; Paul W. Freedman, Treasurer; Rabbi Charles Sheer, Secretary; Rabbi Avraham Weiss, Secretary; Professor Eugene Borowitz, Moses Brodetzky, Rubin R. Dobin, Rabbi Ezra Finkelstein, Jack Friedgut, Arnold Grant, Rabbi Jules Harlow, Rabbi Aharon Lichtenstein, Professor Ronald Rubin, Professor Seymour Siegel, Rabbi Israel Wohlgelernter, Sanford Zwickler; Jacob Birnbaum, National Director; Glenn Richter, New York Coordinator. HONORARY SPONSORS Hon. Herman Badillo, Hon. Abraham Beame, Theodore Bikel, Hon. Paul Bookson, Monsignor Harry Byrne, Rep. Leonard Farbstein, B. Z. Goldberg, Rabbi Harold Gordon, William Haddad, Dr. Abraham J. Heschel, Rabbi David Hill, Chief Rabbi Immanuel Jakobovits, Senator Jacob Javits, Rabbi Gilbert Klaperman, Rep. Edward Koch, Rabbi Norman Lamm, Mayor John V. Lindsay, Hon. Robert Morgenthau, Rabbi Louis I. Newman, Paul O'Dwyer, Rabbi Emanuel Rackman, Hon. Burton Roberts, Rep. Benjamin Rosenthal, Bayard Rustin, Rep. William F. Ryan, Rabbi Herschel Schachter, Rep. James Scheuer, Dr. Hillel Seidman, Dr. Judd Teller, Hon. Carl Vergari, Rev. Dr. Moran Weston, Elie Wiesel.