

### Jewry Councils press Kremlin

# Rise in quota a political move

by Alison Manzer

In a recent political move the USSR raised the quota of Jews being allowed to emigrate from that country.

Emigration from the Soviet Union has been fluctuating during the past few years. Protests after the Leningrad trials of 1970 caused a quota raise to approximately 1,200 a month for a few months. The number then dropped again to 120 a week. The most recent raise (December 1970) has brought the number leaving the country to 4,000 a month.

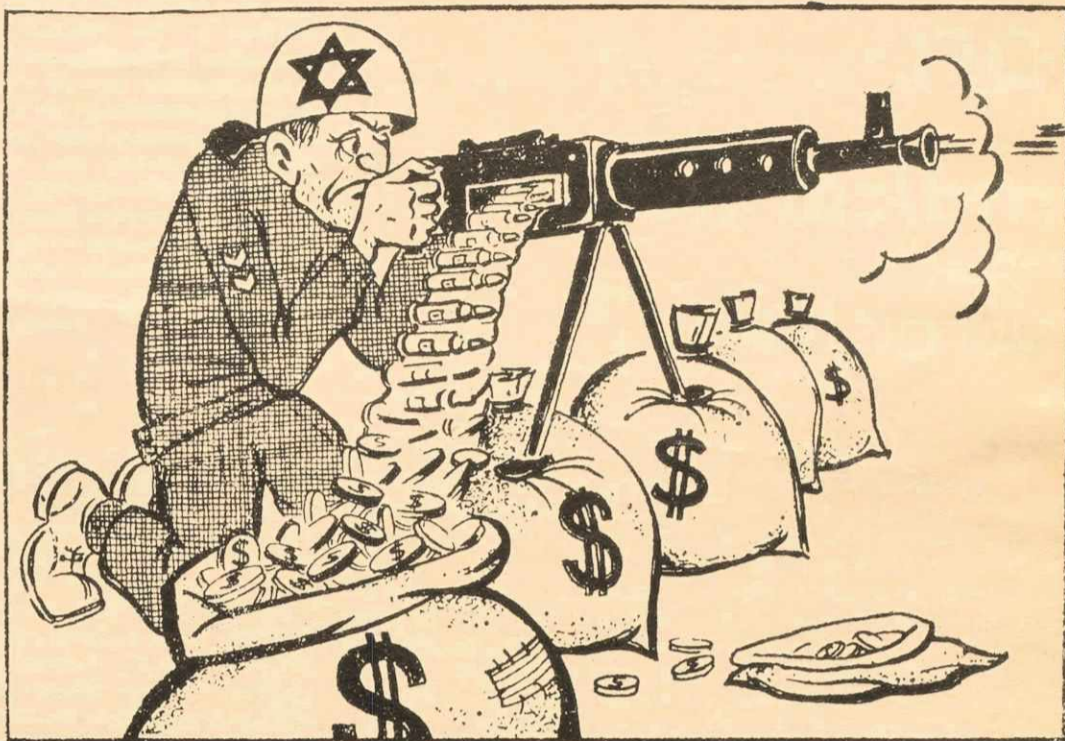
The specific reasons for the raise are unclear but there are some indications as to motive. One is a split in the Kremlin leadership. The split seems to be over the implications of international publicity and its effect on Soviet expansionism. One group believes that more harm will come from detaining the Jews when world opinion is demanding their freedom. Other opinion is obviously opposed to this and feels there is harm in releasing the Jews. This may cause antagonisms between the Kremlin and other

minority groups in the union of Republics, as they too demand more freedom.

The issue which may have forced the Soviet Government to raise the quota is rising internal discontent. The fringe areas such as the Caucasus, the Ukraine, the Baltic republics and central Asia are expressing disaffection. The Jew happens to be one of the groups which has a great deal of external support. The raising of the Jewish emigration quota will appease world opinion. This will be achieved without the possibility of internal discontent which would result from a mass exodus. Such a departure of large groups would raise jealousies in other minority groups and likely cause an increase in their demands.

The ultimate result of this increase will be that of a smoke screen. As soon as attention is diverted the Soviet Union may return to its original policy. This follows the principle of keeping things quiet until a hot issue dies down. This seems to be what the Soviet leaders are trying to achieve by granting

From the cesspool of Soviet Anti-Semitic Agitation  
Anti-Israel, Anti-Zionist propaganda in millions of copies



Dollars become bullets

reprinted in "Focus on Soviet Jewry"

from "Pravda"



limited concessions.

It is important for people to realize that the issue is not dead. The quota of Jews allowed to emigrate from the Soviet Union has not been static in the past. There exists the great possibility that the quota will be lowered again if pressure is taken off the Soviet leaders. Repressive acts are also still occurring in the Soviet Union.

There are large numbers of political prisoners in the Soviet Union who have been arrested for a variety of reasons. Among the Jews these fall mainly into the categories: "Anti-soviet acts", "anti-soviet propaganda" and "treason — to flee abroad". One thing which should be noted about these arrests is that a political prisoner automatically goes to a strict regime camp. A criminal may only reach this level of punishment if they are a repeated offender or commit a crime while already in a camp. Yet many of the Jewish

prisoners are there only because they wished to study their traditional language or to go to their racial homeland.

Some consideration should also be given to the fact that there are three and a half million Jews in the Soviet Union. Of these approximately 300,000 have indicated a wish to go to Israel. At a rate of 1,500 a week this would take four years and the number of people desiring to leave is increasing constantly. This is largely due to racial prejudices existing in the Soviet Union. The fact that anti-Semitic cartoons have appeared in major Soviet publications (such as Pravda) is indication of its existence.

The action committees on Soviet Jewry are now beginning to focus on these problems as well as that of freeing the Jews. The approach taken to achieve this is to aim campaigns at the individual prisoner. Posters, mass productions of postcards to the Kremlin, television

programs and demonstrations are all mentioning the individual. This is being done on a North American, and to some extent, on a world scale. This is done in the hope that the Soviet officials will become embarrassed enough to release or at least improve the conditions of the political prisoner.

All action is being co-ordinated through the Union of Soviet Jewry Councils, which is a North American association, keeping all the regions and locals in touch. The power of the actions comes from this mass co-ordination. The magnitude of this must be such that it brings pressure to bear on the Soviet leaders.

For those who are interested please write to this prisoner and tell her that people are becoming involved: Zalmanson, Sylva Yosifovna, Rabochy Poselok Iavas, Zubovo Polionsky Rayan, Uchr. Zh. 385/3, Potma, Mordavian ASSR, USSR.

