

JEWISH AFFAIRS

Sept/Oct 1986

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Jewish Americans and World Peace
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**Unity of the People's Forces
To Defeat The Reaganites**
James Steele

**Reagan: Goebbels Like Liar
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Morris Davis

Cry For Peace
Richard Davidson



**WE EXTEND
OUR GREETINGS FOR
A HAPPY, PEACEFUL
NEW YEAR**

A Demonstration For Peace!

by Lewis M. Moroze

Opening remarks delivered by Lewis Moroze, Managing Editor of Jewish Affairs, at the 14th Annual Dinner of the magazine on September 18, 1986 at the Penta Hotel in New York City.

Our 14th Annual *Jewish Affairs*, whose theme is "1986 - Year of Peace - Year of Decision," is in reality one of the growing number of peace demonstrations organized across the breadth of our land in a determined effort to guarantee the successful conclusion of the Geneva Peace Process. Along with millions in every state of our nation and across the face of the globe, we, here, fully support the convening of a meaningful Summit meeting and the end of nuclear weapons testing.

At this year's dinner, I would address you not as guests but rather as fellow participants in a campaign that history will record as the most significant crusade in all of world history. As described by Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, it is "the crusade to save humanity, to preserve our planet and nature."

The editors of *Jewish Affairs*, therefore, accept the serious responsibility to strengthen and further the peace sentiment and the peace movements in our land. As members of the news media the editors of *Jewish Affairs* are especially proud of the role being played by America's new and only national working class daily newspaper, the *the People's Daily World*, already a powerful and most significant voice for peace projecting the needs, activities and aims of our multi-national, multi-racial working class. Participating with us today in our peace demonstration is the foreign editor of the *People's Daily World*, Marilyn Bechtel. Would you please stand and be recognized. Also with us today are editors of our nationality press: Michael Hanusiak, editor of *Ukrainian News* and Zoltan Deak, of the editorial board of the *Hungarian Word* and Fanya Gonta of the editorial board of *Russky Golos*. Would you all stand up?

There is persistent and growing evidence of the determination to thwart the plans of the Reaganite global hegemonists. Most recent evidence of this determination is revealed in the results of the nation-wide primary elections. Reagan is being forced to campaign more vigorously while bemoaning the fact that he is a "lame duck" President. We note also the grand Cross-Country March for Peace which had a most significant impact in Ohio. In America's heartland thousands

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poured out of metropolitan areas, cities and hamlets to greet the U.S. and Soviet participants on the Mississippi Peace Cruise. In the past week participants in the Bridges for Peace Project left for the Soviet Union and, in return representatives of the Soviet Bridges for Peace Project will visit the U.S. In a couple of hours hundreds of people will gather in Bergen Community College in New Jersey to express their opposition to Reagan's Star War Madness.

As these developments give us heart to intensify our efforts still more, we cannot overlook the bitter-end-determination of the Reaganites, the global hegemons, the perpetrators of terrorism world-wide, to thwart the people's will. Heading this cabal are the Weinbergers, the Abrams, the Perles, the Adelmans, the Kochs and the Regans, with one "a".

We must report here today that the State Department struck a blow against the Geneva Peace Process by crudely and brazenly maneuvering to keep Colonel-General David Dragunsky and Andrey Belyaev, a correspondent, from addressing us today and other gatherings across our land.

Last year the State Department denied a visa to Colonel-General Dragunsky. This year the State Department game plan involved a prolonged so-called "study of the visa application." For a period of three weeks the State Department response to daily inquiries about the status of the visa application and the reasons for the prolonged processing, was merely that "it was being processed; don't call us; we'll call you", which they never did. Fed up with the crude run-around we asked attorney Sherrill Howard, representing the National Emergency Civil Liberties Committee, of which the eminent Corliss Lamont is chairperson, to intervene. The response to Attorney Howard was that the processing would not be completed in time for our international guests to appear at the Dinner today.

Just who is our guest whose visa application requires such prolonged study that he could not emplane in time to be here with us? Colonel-General Dragunsky, twice decorated with the Soviet Union's highest honor, *Hero of the Soviet Union*, fought the German fascists from the first day of the attack upon the U.S.S.R. through to the end of the war. Included in his heroic exploits is the liberation of Nazi concentration camp survivors. Colonel-General Dragunsky's entire family was butchered because they were Jewish. His mother was executed for refusing during the war to divulge the whereabouts of her sons. Colonel-General Dragunsky is one of 53 Soviet Jews who signed an *Appeal to Jews in the United States* to join in a common

effort to bring about world peace. The State Department refuses a visa to this Jewish Soviet hero while prattling about the plight of Jews in the USSR.

This courageous anti-fascist, this man of peace is unwelcome in the U.S. by Reagan's State Department standards. The U.S. State Department and Justice Department's were Johnny-on-the-spot to open the doors for and welcome thousands of Nazi war criminals dripping with the blood of 12,000,000 holocaust victims, six million of whom were Jewish. Reagan went to Bitburg to honor the S.S. veterans who murdered the members of the Dragunsky family while slaughtering 6 million Jews and 6 million more gypsies and men and women considered "untermenschen" by the Nazis.

The bloody fascist tyrant, Ferdinand Marcos, got expeditious handling of his visa and with his entourage was fed at our expense. Reagan's State and Justice Departments permit the fascist Meir Kahane to retain his citizenship though he is a member of the Israeli Knesset. Kahane travels freely and frequently to our shores with Reagan's consent to raise funds for his fascist party, Kach, while growing numbers of Jewish Americans reject Kahane and his fascist program.

The denial of the visa to Colonel-General David Dragunsky and Andrey Belyaev is an act against the interest of the Geneva Peace Process and a brazen act of anti-Semitism.

Mass protests are in order condemning the denial of visas to leading Soviet peace advocates. Protests must take note of the anti-Semitic essence of the denials.

We are here today to do all in our power to secure world peace and our planet placed in our trust for future generations to enjoy. One step we can take today is to pledge to participate in the signature gathering campaign for the *Peoples Peace Treaty*, copies of which are on the tables.

The editors of *Jewish Affairs* intend to keep open the invitation to Colonel-General David Dragunsky so that he can address you. You will be our guests at such a gathering. Watch the pages of *Jewish Affairs* and the *People's Daily World*.

**Every Reader
Get A Reader**

Jewish-Americans and World Peace

by Jon Weisberger

The following address was delivered at the 14th Annual Jewish Affairs Dinner at the Penta Hotel in New York City. Mr. Weisberger is a member of the National Council of New Jewish Agenda.

Dear Friends:

Let me begin by thanking Lew Moroze for giving me the opportunity to address you this afternoon. When I asked Lew what he would like me to speak about, he suggested that I address the struggle for peace as I see it from my position as chairperson of New Jewish Agenda's Disarmament Task Force. Truthfully, that is more in the nature of an outline for a book; nevertheless, I will give it a try, and I hope that I can shed some light on the current state and direction of the peace movement in the Jewish community.

An analysis of the present situation must begin with a recognition of the "crisis of inaction" as it is reflected in the Jewish community. Certainly there is such a crisis in the peace movement at large. This crisis also finds its reflection among peace activists in the Jewish community. While many of the features are the same, there are some unique aspects of the crisis of inaction within the Jewish community that we must recognize and solve if we are to involve greater number of Jewish Americans in the struggle for peace and disarmament.

To begin with the specific issue of nuclear disarmament, we need to recognize that part of the crisis revolves around the difficulty of untangling disarmament from what I call "Who's a Jew" issues. These are the questions of the Middle East conflict and the so-called campaign for Soviet Jewry. I call these "Who's a Jew" questions because to challenge the positions of the major Jewish organizations and their leaders on these questions is to invite attacks on one's very identity as a Jew, often framed in the use of the term "self-hating Jew." Let me tell you briefly that I think this is a term more accurately applied to the Norman Podhoretz and the Meir Kahanes, who have built their careers upon the rejection of everything progressive and humanistic in the Jewish tradition. Who is a self-hating Jew? The supporter of a peaceful, just solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict or Norman Podhoretz, who calls for the creation of still more nuclear weapons or, to use Art Waskow's memorable phrase, "portable Auschwitzes"? Neither is it an accident that Meir Kahane reserves the highest legal penalties in the kind of Israel he would establish for Jews who would dare to

relate to Arabs as other than "hewers of wood and drawers of water"?

Nevertheless, part of the breakout from inaction in the Jewish community must be based upon a recognition of the transcendence of the nuclear threat. There is a reflection of this recognition in the work of many outstanding Jewish scientists and experts who have consciously decided to address a larger audience than the Jewish community, based precisely upon a recognition of the omnicidal potential of nuclear war. We must give greater voice to the need for putting aside often vast political differences in order to reduce the threat of nuclear annihilation.

At the same time, we must take a deeper look at the roots of the crisis as they affect liberal and progressive sectors of the Jewish community. Here inactivity is more rooted, I think, in the unwillingness of Jewish peace activists to confront the contradiction between the portrayal of the Soviet Union as an oppressive state, which many otherwise progressive activists accept, and the acknowledged leading role of the Soviet Union in the struggle for peace. Faced with this contradiction, and unwilling to challenge the dominant characterization of the Soviet Union as anti-Semitic, too many peace activists have retreated into a hand-wringing silence.

Part of the response to this situation, as I have said, is to stress the overarching importance of ending the nuclear arms race. But beyond this, we must find ways to both educate our brothers and sisters, and to encourage them to speak up for a realistic, accurate understanding of Soviet society.

A failure to do so ultimately leads us into a trap prepared by "the Soviet Jewry" movement. Too often, friends of the Soviet Union have failed to realize the cunning of the "Soviet Jewry" movement in providing a "Soviet anti-Semitism" line tailored to the perspective of different sectors of the American people, and especially the Jewish community. When this happens, we become locked in sterile debates in which opposing anecdotes, statistics and speeches are counterposed without the possibility for opening the way for our friends to learn.

We must also challenge the viewpoint that ties the security of Israel to participation in the U.S. drive for nuclear superiority. I suggest that in this case we focus upon Israeli participation in Star Wars. New Jewish Agenda is preparing to tour an American computer scientist and an Israeli physicist throughout the U.S. in the spring of 1987 to expose the dangers of Israeli Star Wars participation. The experts will also spend time in

Israel, directly addressing Israeli audiences on the need to oppose Israeli participation.

The U.S.-Israeli scientists' Star Wars tour is an effective and exciting way of bringing a peace-oriented perspective into a dirty game that is being played with the Israeli and American Jewish communities. As you may know, Star Wars is being sold to American Jews on the basis of Israeli participation, and to Israeli Jews on the basis of American Jewish support. The tour can help break into that closed circle, and educate both Israeli and American Jews on the dangers of Star Wars.

A healthy sign has been the increased recognition of the importance of electoral struggles in the fight for peace. The Shalom Center, a peace organizing center that includes representatives from the Reform, Conservative, Orthodox and Reconstructionist communities, has made the theme of its annual Sukkat Shalom "From the Harvest Booth to the Voting Booth." Sukkat Shalom deserves the support and participation of Jewish Affairs readers, particularly in its recognition of the transcendence of the nuclear threat and its broad appeal to the religious sector of the Jewish community.

Such an activist orientation is in the best traditions of American Jews. The complex nature of American Jewishness, in its dual essence as a religious and a national phenomenon has ensured that theological positions have always found a reflection in real political activity. Part of our work, then, must involve a recognition of and support for new currents in Jewish theological thought and their expression in organizational activity. In my past two years as an active New Jewish Agenda leader, I have seen major movement around the peace issue, but practically every issue of concern to Jewish Americans.

This leads me back to the one area in which this is not yet the case the leadership consensus on Soviet Jewry. If I seem preoccupied with this, it is because life itself has forced the issue. The less American Jews know about the Soviet Union, the more they are willing to buy some variety of the "Soviet anti-Semitism" canard, and the more they are led to doubt the possibility of genuine movement on the peace issue. And, I think therefore, that our perspective on disarmament must, in some ways, revolve around a challenge to the Big Lie.

Yet in that challenge, our first step must be to re-evaluate the utility of our presentation of the issues. In an important way, work in the Jewish community is a laboratory for our larger educational work on the Soviet Union, and on the nature of socialism and its promise for the working people of the world. We must find new and creative ways of bringing the realities of Soviet

Jewish life, and Soviet life in general, to our readers and fellow activists. A major component of this must be the fight for broader exchanges between Soviet and American Jews. The *Open Letter to American Jews* that *Jewish Affairs* publicized several years ago can still serve as an important basis for making the effort to promote such exchanges. We can fight on democratic grounds encouraging Jewish American peace activists to visit the Soviet Union. And I think we have to recognize that, in the prevailing atmosphere of confusion and uncertainty, many sincere Jewish American activists are not yet willing to renounce the idea of meeting with the 'refuseniks and dissidents'. I believe that experience is the best teacher in this regard; one meeting with a so-called dissident may do more to overcome illusions about the "progressive" nature of the "dissident" movement than a thousand articles on the bankruptcy of the anti-Soviets. We need to develop a greater trust in the ability of those with whom we work and have confidence in them to see for themselves the world as it really is.

In sum, then, the possibilities for a revitalization of peace work in the Jewish community are great. What is needed is a concerted effort to seize the opportunities that exist, to carefully evaluate the variety of approaches that are required by ongoing development in the Jewish community, and a commitment not to abandon the field in disgust at the reactionary nature of much of the Jewish leadership. In this regard, we need to bring our understanding of the dynamics of organizational leadership in a capitalist society, and the difficulties in the struggle for democracy to our activity in the Jewish community. When we do this, we will find that, rather than being caught in isolation, we will have rooted ourselves in the life of our community. □

Letters to Editor

August 18, 1986

Dear Harry & Sarah Tobman:

Thanks for sending the copy of *Jewish Affairs*. Attached is a check for two dinner reservations. We will not be in New York, so please use them as you see fit. Also, enter our sub for a year. The issue you sent (May/June) was so interesting and, of course, agrees with our thinking. It is a pleasure to support the publication.

Best
Harvey & Elena Meltzer

UNITY OF THE PEOPLE'S FORCES TO DEFEAT THE REAGANITES IN NOVEMBER ELECTIONS

by James Steele

Speech by James Steele, Member of the Political Bureau and Secretary of the Legislative and Political Action Department of the Central Committee, CPUSA, at the 14th Annual Jewish Affairs Dinner at the Penta Hotel in New York City September 21, 1986

Good Afternoon Comrades and Friends:

I would like to begin by expressing my appreciation for being here with you at this wonderful event. The annual dinner of *Jewish Affairs*, publication of the Jewish Affairs Commission of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, has become an important tradition within Left and progressive circles in our country. Needless to say, it is an important forum for the discussion of vital issues of particular concern to Jewish Americans. This is what enables it at the same time to make unique contributions on the burning questions facing the American people as a whole.

Frankly, when I accepted the invitation several months ago to speak here I had no idea of exactly how great a contribution the *14th Annual Jewish Affairs Dinner* could and must make to the struggle on the most crucial and urgent issue confronting humankind: The struggle for self-preservation in the face of the mounting daily danger of nuclear confrontation. Through all of us in attendance today this event must significantly add to the mobilization of maximum joint action of all forces of the working and people to elect a peace majority to Congress in the November elections. Such a Congress is one of the key links in the chain of struggle to restrain the Reagan Administration from unleashing nuclear war.

Our people, our country; all peoples, all countries, are passing through the most perilous moment in all of human history. At stake is the existence of human civilization and the planet itself. Either the people's peace forces act now with absolute urgency and single-mindedness or time may run out. The doomsday clock is ticking alarmingly close to midnight. Initiated, maintained and deliberately escalated by the Reagan Administration on behalf of the militarist circles grouped in and around it, the arms race hovers at the edge of the abyss, dangerously on the verge of spinning totally out of control.

Our President reassures us and cajoles us with rapturous demogogy about "serious negotiations." He writes facile but nonetheless innocuous letters to Mikhail Gorbachev proposing that the USSR disarm while the United States arms. He proclaims that "nuclear war can never be won and must never be fought." But all of his administration's action go in the opposite direction: more arms, more preparations, more provocations in pursuit of "nuclear war fighting," first-strike military superiority over the Soviet Union.

It is important to note, however, that the stupendous dangers implicit in the current state of affairs has not been lost on vast numbers of the American people. Gripped with over-riding fear of mass annihilation and the terror of the growing realization that the responsibility for the threat to humankind's existence rests exclusively with our government, tens of millions of our people - men and women of all ages, religions, political views, races, nationalities, ethnic groups, from all classes and strata - have propelled themselves into unprecedented motion.

Thousands of anti-war actions have been and are being organized. Thousands of grassroots peace organizations and anti-nuclear war coalitions formed. Representative of the activation of the people's peace forces was the Mississippi Peace Cruise last summer and now the Great Peace March which even as we gather here is winding its way through the state of Pennsylvania. The support and reception the Great Peace March is being accorded in city after city demonstrates the breadth and width and depth of concern, outrage and determination of so-called common people to have a say in the matters influencing whether or not the species will survive.

The peace upsurge of the American people finds its parallel in all countries. The unprecedented worldwide activation of hundreds of millions in the struggle against the nuclear war threat increasingly is galvanized, inspired and impelled on to new levels of mass pressure by the profound yet completely realistic and realizable initiatives which have been taken by the Soviet Union. Its unilateral moratorium on all nuclear weapons tests, for example, has riveted world public opinion on the demand that the U.S. government likewise cease nuclear tests, that the nuclear powers - the USSR and the United States in the first place - immediately negotiate a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty. It is noteworthy and a source of great pride for our entire nation that the lead banner of the Great Peace March reads: "The Soviets Stopped Testing - Why Not Us?"

Mikhail Gorbachev, in announcing the fourth extension of the Soviet moratorium in the face of what are now 20 U.S. tests during this period, stated quite frankly that the leadership of the Soviet Union takes into account the thinking and proposals of the peace movements of the various countries - including the broad range of U.S. peace forces, as well as the demand of public opinion in general in making its proposals on ways of halting the arms race and moving forward on disarmament. Gorbachev said this was with the conscious intention of helping achieve, develop and broaden a worldwide consensus and movement to stay the hand of the militarist circles. These circles, headquartered in the ruling class of our country, apparently cannot or refuse to grasp the supreme dangers facing humankind. All they can see is the "new profit frontier" of Star Wars and the impossible dream of bringing their "crusade against communism" to its logical conclusion.

But the convergence of all peace forces is helping the people of our country surmount historic ideological barriers that brake their full participation in the struggle to save the lives of billions of people from nuclear incineration. One result, according to polls, is that the majority of our people do not now see the Soviet Union as a military threat. Nor do the majority view the USSR as the source of the new war danger. This, by the way, in the face of constant anti-Soviet barrages, provocations and diversions staged by the anti-summit coalition whose ringleaders include top officials of the Reagan Administration: Secretary of Defense Weinberger, White House communications director Patrick Buchanan, CIA director William Casey, deputy defense secretary Richard Perle, Director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency Kenneth Adelman, chief negotiator at the Geneva talks, Max Kampelman, Assistant Secretary of State Elliot Abrams, among others.

It seems that President Reagan and Secretary of State Shultz can't make up their minds from one day to another whether they are for or against a second summit. Evidently, they are for it if it's symbolic and against it if it's going to deal with substance. To be more precise, at the moment Reagan seems only interested in setting a date for a summit because he thinks it will help re-elect his anti-arms control allies in the U.S. Senate, many of whom are in deep trouble precisely because they have supported throwing tens of billions of dollars down the Pentagon sewer hole while millions of Americans are flushed out of factories and off their farms.

Everything is being thrown up to sabotage prospects for a summit and to divert voters from repudiating
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Reagan's foreign and military policy by rejecting Republican incumbents in the November election. It has to be admitted that some provocations and diversions are having an effect, at least temporarily. Nevertheless, support for a summit regardless of other complications continues to build among the masses of our people. For example, only yesterday the Los Angeles Times released the results of its latest poll showing that while 65 percent of the people believe the Soviet Union unjustly detained U.S. News & World Report journalist Nicholas Daniloff, 71 percent feel the summit should be held regardless.

The more time passes, the more the facts come out, the more more people will doubt the innocence of Daniloff. Despite the President's personal assurances, facts will show Daniloff to be a rather high level CIA operative. If anything, the President's assurances that he isn't a spy stimulates many Americans to conclude the opposite. They remember Reagan's assurances that he was sincere about reaching arms control agreements with the Soviet Union, that he wouldn't cut social security, that he would defend family farmers, that he wasn't anti-trade union, that he believed in equal opportunity, that he was against apartheid, ad nauseam.

What is being expressed is the good common sense of our people - especially in the working class and a heart-felt desire for people-to-people contact. This reflects a nearly all-pervasive desire for unity in the struggle for peace. Broad sections of the U.S. people correctly believe dialogue with their Soviet counterparts is an indispensable part of the peace process. They see the need to reason together. Which makes all the more despicable the criminal denial of a visa to Colonel-General David Dragunsky of the Soviet Union, who was invited to address this gathering and tour our country. Perhaps it is that the State Department prefers that the American people not have an opportunity to contrast Soviet military leaders whose mission in life is defending peace with Pentagon brass whose sole goal is defending war; or to meet Soviet Jews, reflecting the multi-national unity and political and moral cohesion of Soviet society, who help shape and carry out Party and state policy. The Administration and Zionist circles want to hide that this is the case with the overwhelming majority of Soviet Jewry.

This, the 14th Annual Jewish Affairs Dinner, has an appropriate theme: "World Peace - 1986 - Year of Decision."

This year is a year of decision because a turn away from the arms race must be made now, this year - not later. But how? - that is the question. This year in some

countries the people have had to take up arms to fight for peace and freedom. In ours the people in sufficient numbers simply have to lift their arms and pull the lever on voting machines against warhawk incumbents and war-mongering office seekers. The people's peace forces, and they are massive - every contingent in every House and Senate race - can and must act in 1986 in the November Congressional election on behalf of all humanity for the sake of human survival. Any thought of waiting until the next presidential election could be a fatal delay. Nineteen eighty-eight may be too late.

The outcome of the November congressional election will decisively influence whether or not a second summit takes place in the near future. The election will decisively influence the prospects at such a summit for concluding far-reaching arms control agreements. The election will determine, also in a fundamentally decisive way, to what extent the Reagan administration is able to continue its offensive against everything peaceful and progressive.

The election will have this impact because its outcome will either result in a maintenance of the status quo in the equilibrium in the U.S. Congress between the forces of Reaganism, on the one hand; and the forces of peace and social progress, on the other. Or, the election will bring about a shift in the political balance in the Congress, favoring those forces - broadly speaking - committed to pursuing an anti-Reagan policy, even if a moderate one, at home and abroad. Such a shift can be achieved by electing a peace majority in the House and particularly the Senate. That is, a majority that supports a nuclear test ban, curbing Star Wars funding, compliance with the SALT II and Anti-Ballistic Missile treaties, and achieving new arms control and disarmament agreements. A House and Senate majority committed to these positions, affecting as they do the most pivotal question confronting the people of our country and the world, can be reasoned with on other issues as well. Thus, shifting the political balance by electing a peace majority lays the foundation for reversing the interventionist policy toward Central America, constructive engagement with South African apartheid, and strategic cooperation with the Israeli Zionist ruling circles in favor of a policy of seeking genuine peace and justice in the Middle East.

A Congress with this composition would radically enhance the ability of the trade unions, Afro-American community, peace movement and other people's forces to influence and impact on foreign and domestic policy. Indeed, shifting the political balance in this way would lay the basis for erecting insurmountable barriers

to the ultra-Right game plan of institutionalizing administration policy so as to guarantee Reaganism without Reagan for decades to come. Not only that, a shift would lay the basis for unfolding in the 100th Congress which will be elected on November 4, a people's legislative and political action counteroffensive aimed at reversing Reaganism across the board.

The act of voting is an easy task, physically. But convincing millions of people of the urgency of the moment, of what can be achieved in the congressional election, of who to vote for, and why, necessitates a titanic political, ideological and organizational struggle embracing coalition-building, tactical focus, voter registration and education, fund-raising, vigilance against provocations, diversions, divisions, disruptions, out and out sabotage, and - above all - preparation of a massive get-out-the-vote effort.

But can a shift be achieved? Is it a realizable projection? How can it be brought about? These are the questions most often asked. But to every question there is an answer. The masses and their organizations, the working class in particular and its primary organizations - the trade union movement, and its vanguard organization - the Communist Party, have given the initial answer in the primaries. And it is one that points the way to success in the general election as well:

With the trade union movement setting the pace, in the majority of primaries the forces of political independence helped ensure the election of the best candidates for U.S. Senate. The alliance of labor, the Afro-American people, and other progressive forces understood the Democratic candidates as the form, so to speak; the level of mobilization of all people's unity against Reaganism as the content. This content was most effective when meshed with liberal or progressive candidates willing to campaign on the issues. This content helped precisely such candidates defeat conservative Democrats whose platform was based in essence on Reaganizing the Democratic Party.

The efforts of the independent forces, based on the call for achieving a shift in the political balance in Congress, struck a responsive cord among the voters. The anti-Reagan wave thus became the main current in the primaries, and is creating a situation in which a growing number of Senate races and perhaps more than 35 - 40 House races most likely will be very close, including for such darlings of the ultra-right as Republican House minority leader Robert Michel, presidential aspirant Rep. Jack Kemp, and even Newt Gingrich.

As a result, in regard to the Senate in many instances the line-up for the general election pits liberal

or progressive candidates who won the Democratic nomination by virtue of the efforts of labor-led coalitions of the broad forces of the all people's front against ultra-Right Republican incumbents or challengers. An analysis of the 34 Senate contests which will be decided on November 4, reveals the following:

- Nine Democratic and eighteen Republican incumbents are running for re-election; seven races involve open seats.

- All of the Republican incumbents and Republican challengers for the open seats are right-wing or ultra-right.

- Of the 25 Democrats challenging incumbents or for the open seats, at least 15 are firm supporters of a nuclear test ban; 13 side with the trade union movement 3 times or more out of every 4 votes on key labor labor issues; 19 have 80 percent or better ratings on civil rights issues; 19 oppose contra aid; almost all oppose constructive engagement with apartheid, actively supporting the Dellums amendment.

The bottom line is that the Democrats must win any combination of 16 races to gain the Senate majority. As you can see, this can happen only at the expense of ultra-right Republicans. In a number of instances the shift in specific seats would be dramatic:

IN NEW YORK from Alphonse D'Amato, who votes with Reagan 100 percent of the time on key foreign and domestic policy questions; to Mark Green who most likely would vote against the Reagan Administration 90 percent of the time.

IN PENNSYLVANIA from Arlen Specter, whom Vice-President Bush recently termed key to continuing the "Reagan Revolution" - I prefer the term "Reagan Counter-Revolution" - to Bob Edgar, who as a member of the House of Representatives for the past twelve years has a cumulative 89 percent favorable rating by the AFL-CIO, opposes Star Wars, contra aid, apartheid, and is a leading fighter for job security and rebuilding the nation's infrastructure.

IN GEORGIA from Matt Mattingly, who has not voted for arms control legislation even once in six years; to Wyche Fowler, who supports labor close to 70 percent of the time, has an outstanding rating on civil rights questions, opposes contra aid and Star Wars, favors a nuclear test ban, and whose election would mark a qualitative break in the political character of Senators from the Deep South.

IN FLORIDA from Paula Hawkins to Bob Graham, a so-called 'moderate Democrat.' Activists complain that Graham supports the death penalty; but so does Hawkins, with this added proviso: her voting re-

cord proves she supports policies that would impose a death penalty on the world.

IN WISCONSIN from Robert Kasten, one of the Senate's worst on all questions; to Ed Garvey, a former trade union leader, who would likely be one of the Senate's best on all questions.

All total, pro-test ban candidates will oppose ultra-right warmongers in Arkansas, California, Colorado, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Illinois, Maryland, Missouri, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Vermont, Washington, and Wisconsin. If all are elected it would mean a total of 40 - 45 firm test ban supporters in the U.S. Senate. It would mean a majority who support a verifiable freeze on the production, testing and deployment of nuclear weapons, who support SALT II and ABM compliance, and cutting Star Wars funding.

The above illustrates the possible qualitative dimensions of the concept: achieving a shift in the political balance in Congress. Another aspect is that the chair-personships of all Senate committees would change to Democrats. Chair of the Judiciary Committee would change from Strom Thurmond to Edward Kennedy or Joseph Biden; Foreign Relations from Richard Lugar to Claiborne Pell of Rhode Island, who said recently about the Daniloff case that nothing should take precedence over holding a second summit and reaching arms control agreements; Labor and Human Resources from Orrin Hatch, who has 10 percent positive ten year rating by the AFL-CIO and even less on peace issues, to either Kennedy or Howard Metzenbaum, both of whom have better than 90 percent positive ratings from labor, peace, women's, seniors', and civil rights organizations.

Most of all, success for the people's forces in the November election would be a tremendous contribution of our working class, racially and nationally oppressed people, and broad democratic masses to helping deliver humankind from the gravest of dangers facing it - the nuclear war threat. Matters can be correctly put this way because a breakthrough of this magnitude is impossible without the unity and mobilization of those forces that paved the way for this prospect by virtue of their joint action in the primaries. The unity and mobilization of these and other forces must be broadened and deepened. Any and all division that may have existed in the primary must be overcome. Labor must go all out, surpassing its brilliant performance to this point. The alliance of the trade union movement and the Afro-American community must be fully consolidated and activated against the Reaganite incumbents

and challengers. Key voting blocs, without whose massive turnout the Democratic candidates cannot win, must be targeted, won over and brought to the ballot box in overwhelming numbers on Election Day. Where candidates themselves do not move fast enough or fully enough, the independent forces must take the initiative, leaving no stone unturned.

Clearly in a number of Senate and House races Jewish voters constitute a decisive voting bloc, without whose mass support and massive turnout for the Democratic nominee, success on November 4, is unlikely. The New York Senate race is one such instance. This necessitates unity of the progressive and peace forces within the Jewish community, between Jewish masses and the Afro-American community, whose joint action against D'Amato could seal his fate. And it requires multi-racial, multi-national unity of all forces with labor, the peace movement, senior citizens organization, the women's movement, housing struggle, among the youth and students, and in the Democratic Party itself, seeking a turn away from Reaganism.

We all know from personal experience that to project this is one thing but to achieve it in practice is quite another. But it is achievable precisely because it is a historic necessity. And, I would add, precisely because unity of the Jewish masses with other progressive, democratic and people's peace forces is not as hard as some would have us believe.

The facts prove, and this is also substantiated by public opinion polls, that Jewish masses basically remain - and can be expected to be even more so in the future - a vital, active, indispensable contingent of our nation's progressive forces. Despite confusion and negative counter-currents in respect to Israel and some aspects of affirmative action, Jewish masses support better relations with the Soviet Union, arms control and disarmament agreements, oppose ultra-right trends, oppose the Reagan-religious right "social agenda," budget cuts, and other basic policies of Reaganism.

If Jewish masses vote against Reaganite candidates in the 1986 congressional election in the same proportion and to the same extent as they voted against Ronald Reagan in the 1984 presidential election, they will help carry the day in a number of key Senate races.

If activists and organizers taking part in the struggle to shift the political balance in Congress make this proposition their starting point, then initiatives should be taken to help Jewish Americans emerge as one of the critical factors in creating the needed chain reaction in the mobilization of the maximum number of anti-Reagan, anti-ultra right voters.

For all our justified confidence in the masses, it still must be said that the role and influence of Zionist forces not only threaten to undermine the contribution Jewish voters are being called upon to make, but also seriously jeopardize the joint action of the whole front of anti-Reagan, anti-war forces in the election. Much has been written of late about the profoundly reactionary role Zionist lobbies and political action committees are playing in this year's election campaigns. So-called "pro-Israel" but more accurately, pro-Zionist PACs are raising millions of dollars to help re-elect several of the most reactionary, racist and anti-Semitic Reaganite Republican incumbents. In other instances, these same PACs are targeting liberal and progressive candidates for defeat. In still other cases, they helped prevent liberals, including Jewish liberals, from entering the Democratic senatorial primaries under the threat of financial boycott. Several authors have pointed to the contradiction of Zionist PACs (they use the term "Jewish PACs" which I consider incorrect; not all Jews are Zionists — Zionism is a specific policy of imperialism, supporting arch-reactionaries like Sens. Alphonse D'Amato, Paula Hawkins and Robert Kasten, or Rep. Robert Dornan. The latter on the floor of the House of Representatives referred to Vladimir Posner as a "disloyal, betraying little Jew.") Interestingly enough, David Leharer, regional director of the Anti-Defamation League rushed to Dornan's defense with a pitiful apology in the Los Angeles Times newspaper.

Writers have been able to expose the contradiction of Zionist PACs' political and financial support for ultra-right elected officials but they have not been able to explain it. In fact, there is no contradiction at all. Zionist forces say they support these characters because they support a strong military build-up and a military build-up means more money for Israel's security. But neither Israel or any other country will survive a nuclear war. Neither Israel or any other country anywhere in the world is more secure now after a half-decade of the Reagan Administration's military build-up. Even the money which has gone specifically to the Israeli military machine and its ruling circles' policy of annexation, aggression and state terrorism further threatens not safeguards Israel's existence.

The rationalizations of the Zionist-led PACs is a cover-up of the new reality that Zionism has emerged and merged as a main current of militarism in the United States and worldwide. Zionism is one of the most active and aggressive anti-arms control and anti-summit currents within militarist and right-wing circles. Representative of Zionism are well placed politi-

cal cadre of the military industrial complex, many of whom have not only a class but also a great personal financial stake in the continuation of the nuclear arms race.

When Ed Koch supports D'Amato and opposes Mark Green in the New York Senate race because the mayor "disagrees" with Green's philosophy; what is really being expressed is the opposition of Zionism and the military industrial complex to the election of a liberal-to-progressive as U.S. Senator, particularly if he is Jewish, who though "pro-Israel," as Green himself characterizes himself, but stands on an overall progressive platform. What upsets the Zionist leadership is that Mark Green is pro-Israel but he is not a zealot like Koch.

But it is precisely in this sense that Mark Green reflects the new strivings within the Jewish community - particularly among sectors of both its older and younger generations, aimed at re-establishing the pre-dominance of progressive traditions in Jewish life. Traditions of trade unionism, anti-racism, anti-corporate abuse; traditions of being in the front ranks of the struggle for peace and disarmament, democracy and social progress.

It is also precisely in this sense that Mark Green is infinitely closer than Ed Koch to the heartfelt sentiments of wide sections of the Jewish people who may consider themselves Zionists but in fact are not. They fight for Israeli's right to exist but oppose its right to aggress, oppose reactionary trends in Israeli politics, the oppression of the Palestinian people within Israel and in the occupied territories, oppose the invasion of Lebanon, wanting security for Israel but increasingly seeing it as obtainable only in a broader context of peace and justice in the Middle East, including in respect to the national rights of the Palestinian people.

It is to Mark Green's credit that he ran in the Democratic primary and won - refusing to be intimidated by lack of financial support from pro-Zionist elements within his own ethnic community. Koch's opposition reveals panic over the growing possibility of being challenged for political influence within New York's Jewish community and the Democratic Party apparatus by a progressive with the prestige of holding a U.S. Senate seat.

Koch's tantrum also reflects fear in the ranks of the ultra-right that, contrary to the recent polls, Mark Green's chances of defeating D'Amato are very good indeed. When D'Amato finds it necessary to have an \$8 million campaign war-chest it is a sign of political weakness not strength. And even in that regard Green's

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primary victory devalues D'Amato's dollars by at least half.

David can slay Goliath in the New York Senate race. The decisive question is to aim and throw the stones at the target: D'Amato's six year track record of support for Reaganism at the expense of the well-being and security of the people of New York.

In the labor movement, the all pervasive anti-nuclear war sentiment, the Afro-American, Puerto Rican and Jewish communities in particular, there are the stones. Green's candidacy, if it focuses on the basic issue of concern to the decisive blocs of voters, can be what has been lacking - a galvanizing force for unity against the ultra-right, for unity of labor and its allies in the electoral arena, for Afro-American-Jewish unity, for multi-racial, multi-national unity against Reaganism.

Clearly, the task of all progressives, of the Left, of all democratic forces, of all who want to be represented by a Senator who will fight against the arms race and the nuclear war danger, is to unite and themselves fight for the election of Mark Green over Alphonse D'Amato. A little over 40 days remain until Election Day. Not much time. But look at what happened with Noah and his Ark in 40 days!

Green's primary victory built the Ark. Now it is a question of loading it up with the constituent elements of the basic sectors of the electorate, of the people's peace forces, in a broad coalition of trade unions, of Afro-American, Latino, Jewish and other grassroots forces to turn out the vote against D'Amato on Election Day. Such a coalition not only can surmount the Reagan-D'Amato-Koch flood of diversions, disruptions, divisions, provocations and sabotage against the Green candidacy; it can help drown D'Amato and ultimately Reagan and Koch in a deluge of united people's action at the ballot box.

The outcome of the struggle to defeat D'Amato as New York's contribution to helping shift the political balance in Congress, rests on turning out the vote. The battleground therefore centers on the shop floor, in offices, on farms and rural communities, in the neighborhoods and apartment buildings, union halls, churches, synagogues, senior citizen centers, peace organizations, tenants associations, housing movements, on the campuses and in youth and student organizations, at train stops, street corners, sports and cultural events, in reform, independent and regular clubs of the Democratic Party.

The network of mass influence of *Jewish Affairs*
Continued on page 14

Reagan: Goebbels Like Liar and Israel's Ally by Herbert Aptheker

Address delivered at the 14th Annual Jewish Affairs Dinner on September 18, 1986 at the Penta Hotel in New York City.

Apart from its NATO partners, Washington's closest alliance is its mutual assistance agreement with Israel an agreement which is unique insofar as it actually names the USSR as its object.

That alliance has meant, on the one hand, that Israel receives in grants and loans scores of billions of dollars as well as armaments from Washington. On the other hand, Israel provides the U.S. with unimpeded access to significant naval and air facilities; it serves as a gendarme in the Mid-East to repress liberation and socially progressive efforts and, in general, acts as an important supporter of U.S. imperialism.

In specific terms, how does the Israeli government serve President Reagan? Here are two illustrative items from a recent issue (August 28, 1986) of that important Jewish weekly, the *Jewish Sentinel/Chicago*. Both reports come from the Jewish Telegraphic Agency; one originates in Jerusalem. This declares that as a result of the visit of Vice-President Bush, an agreement was signed whereby Israel will allow the U.S. to build a Voice of America transmitter on its territory. This station will comprise sixteen tower antennae, each the height of a 70-story building. Washington was delighted, because said the *Sentinel*: "The Reagan administration has said it attaches major importance to boosting the VOA's output to the Soviet Bloc countries."

The other dispatch is datelined Tel Aviv and reports the conclusion of significant new trade and investment agreements between Israel and South Africa. The provisions state: South Africa is allowed to continue investing up to 40 million rands per year (about 15 millions). Credit lines were extended for South African exports to Israel, fishing rights for Israeli vessels in South African waters were granted and specific arrangements concluded for investments in Israel by citizens of South Africa.

The negotiations were conducted in Pretoria; they were held, reports the JTA, "under a virtual news blackout by the Israeli government." The blackout is perhaps a good sign Israel seems to have been ashamed of what it is doing! Professor Shlomo Avineri, formerly Director-General of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, said he thought it was wrong to enter into agreements with

the Botha government. He added: "There is concern that the South African government is trying to use its commercial agreement with Israel to by-pass a possible ban by some Western countries." Of course, Israel is serving as a conduit for the bourgeoisie of the world to continue extracting super-profits from the South African masses and, also, to bulwark its fascist regime. Again, no doubt, Reagan is grateful for services rendered.

It was this Reagan who chose to stand next to Chancellor Kohl at Bitburg and honor the assassins of Hitler's *Wehrmacht* and SS troops. It was this Reagan who on that occasion equated the victims of Hitlerism with the victimizers.

It was this Reagan with his Hitler-like anti-Communism and anti-Sovietism whose Administration's policies threaten a global holocaust. It was this Reagan who, in a speech in 1983 at a meeting of the National Association of Evangelicals, quoted from what he called Lenin's *Ten Commandments*. This disgusting document had Lenin adhering to a litany of deceit, brutality and immorality. When challenged as to source, Reagan's aides confessed they could discover none. But there was a source: the President of the United States was quoting from a nazi propaganda leaflet used in the Second World War!

There has just been published an exposure of the falsifications, distortions and lies of the Reagan administration which can be if its contents reach the masses an important instrument in helping bury Reaganism and saving humanity.

As a modest contribution to this effort to spread the message of this book we will here offer a brief summary of its main contents not a full scale analysis and critique which will appear in another form. The volume is entitled: *The Myth of Soviet Military Supremacy*; its author is Tom Gervasi, who is director of the Center for Military Research and Analysis in New York City, and who has contributed essays in such periodicals as the *New York Times*, *Sunday Times* of London, *Harper's Magazine*, and the *Columbia Journalism Review*. His publisher, Harper and Row, is one of the oldest and most prestigious in the United States. These credentials make all the more significant this volume. Professor Richard A. Falk, Princeton's outstanding authority on international law, finds its analysis "devastating" so far as dominant concepts in our country are concerned. Quite properly, Professor Falk calls Gervasi's work "superlative"; he thinks "it provides the best hope for

stopping the nuclear arms race since the freeze movement." That may be an excessive statement; I would rather say that if the basic in this book is brought to multi-millions in the U.S. it will help in the decisive effort this coming November to wipe out Reaganism in the Congress.

The propaganda base of Hitlerism was the devil theory of Communism and the propaganda about a "Soviet menace." Essentially the same imperialist-spawned mythology has been at the heart of the Cold War since the end of World War II. This mythology produced particular lies, like the Bomber gap and the Missile gap, etc., and all of them have been exposed. Reagan has gone them all one better; he has invented a gap which declares that the Soviet Union has achieved or had achieved by the time he took office what he has called absolute or strategic military supremacy as compared with the United States.

It is on the basis of this gigantic lie that Reagan has been able to implement his unprecedented arms program. In the first five full years of the Reagan administration it has squandered one trillion dollars on "defense" through 1990! Reagan's military budget is about \$ 300 billions annually; under him the share of all federal spending on war preparation has risen from 23% in 1980 to 29% in 1986. Actually, these figures include only expenditures by the Defense Department; if to these are added the sums spent by the Energy Department for nuclear warheads, and the cost of NASA's military flights, and payments to war veterans, one finds that the moloch of war-related spending eats up 57% of all federal expenditures!

No wonder that in Reagan's first year in office, his administration authorized cuts of \$ 44.4 billions for domestic social programs and that from 1982 through 1985 further cuts totalled about \$76 billions, while the plans of the Reagan administration call for additional cuts from 1986 through 1988 of \$65.5 billions.

Gervasi's book proves, in three hundred pages of fully persuasive text and in overwhelmingly convincing statistical data, that Reagan's Soviet military supremacy is as false as were the earlier Bomber Gap and Missile Gap fakes.

There is no other book by a reputable author and issued by a distinguished publisher, dealing with a President of the U.S., which so fully and conclusively demonstrates that official to be an inveterate liar. The directness and repetitiousness of the charge are extraordinary and merited. Here is a representative but not exhaustive catalogue, page numbers in parenthesis: The Reagan administration "lies"(24), is guilty of "one

of the largest lies ever told"(24); uttered "a lie"(27); "has told whatever lies were needed to gain support for its policies"(45); is guilty of "false comparison"(67); deliberately "misinterprets"(103); "inflates", "heavily inflated", "further inflated"(103-104), "lies freely"(114), " understates"(115), "overstates", (116), is guilty of "suppressing"(121), of "flat lies"(129), of "manipulation of figures"(187), "resorted to false comparisons", and issued data which were "either fabricated or incomplete"(210)...

Particularly well done is the demonstration of the falsification by the Reagan administration in overstating the military strength of the Warsaw Pact Powers and understating that of NATO; its lying about the so-called problem of verification of testing which because of available technique is no longer in any way a problem; in its absurd canards about Soviet use of chemical weapons, all the more vicious when one recalls the employment on a massive scale by the United States of chemical warfare in Indo-China and the refusal by the United States to join in outlawing chemical warfare. Gervasi shows that weapons development by the United States since 1945 has been aggressive and by the Soviet Union for the past forty years defensive; i.e., in almost all cases of new weapons A-Bomb, H-Bomb, N-Bomb, MIRV, etc., the U.S. first developed the weapons though the USSR urged that this not be done, and then failing in dissuading the U.S., the USSR went ahead and developed the weapons.

Gervasi shows the fantasy quality of Reagan's Star Wars project; that literally no one believes it can be one hundred percent effective even with 25 years of effort. With modern weaponry, if it is only partially successful, the lethal results are catastrophic. Star Wars in any case has no applicability whatsoever to nuclear weapons that fly close to the ground, that are launched from bombers, that are launched from vessels on or under the seas, and they have no application whatsoever to the European continent. Star Wars is premised on the idea of wiping out the nuclear capacity of the USSR prior to U.S. attack, that is, Star Wars is based on first-strike ideas; it also is desired by Reagan because he hopes that research on it may result in the appearance of other new weaponry.

There are weaknesses in the Gervasi book; four must be mentioned though our time is limited. 1.) He does not report that the USSR has pledged publicly and repeatedly never to be guilty of first-strike use of nuclear weapons for any reason whatsoever; 2.) he makes no mention of the repeated unilateral discontinuance of nuclear weapons testing by the USSR; 3.) he makes no

mention of the Gorbachev proposals for reduction in nuclear weapons culminating in a world without such weapons by the year 2000. And, 4.) above all, he makes no mention of the fact that the **Soviet Union does not want and does not seek military superiority over the U.S.** It repeatedly has affirmed this and added that it wants parity and that it will not permit superiority in arms by the United States, for that imperils the State. It wants an end to the arms race, it wants an end to nuclear weapons testing; it wants a world free of nuclear arms in the next fifteen years. In what way do such desires threaten the people of the United States?

There are, in my opinion, other weaknesses and failings in Gervasi's book, some of them far from minor. But that is not the main point. One must emphasize that the overwhelming mass and direction of the study is that it amounts to a stunning denunciation of the Reagan administration. It proves without the shadow of a doubt that that administration has lied to the people of the United States and of the world; that these lies have squandered immense human treasure, have caused awful human tragedies and are engaged in for the worst possible reasons to establish a world dominated by imperialism and one where the be-all of human existence is the garnishing of maximum profits.

The final words in Gervasi's text which he chooses to offer via a quotation from Tom Wicker of the *New York Times* are: "Opposition within the U.S. government in the Pentagon, in Congress, at the national nuclear laboratories as well as in the "military-industrial complex" and the press is a bigger obstacle than the Soviet Union to agreement on a comprehensive test ban."

This volume indeed buries the Reagan lie of Soviet military superiority, which rationalizes his fantastic armaments program. In doing this, the book undermines the whole ballyhoo about a "Soviet menace," a Soviet Union as a dire enemy to the well-being of the people of the United States. The volume leads irresistibly to the conclusion that the basic threat to world peace and the fundamental source of the criminal arms race is the U.S. government.

In Gervasi's words, under Reagan there has been "the single most intensive and prolonged campaign in American history by its government and its defense establishment to create a mythical threat to our security, in order to justify an unparalleled shift in the use of our nation's resources. In creating this threat, false comparisons and misleading statements have played an indispensable role."(59)

The logic of this is that it is in the interest of no

people to tie itself to the war-mad chariot of Ronald Reagan; that such a policy is one assuring catastrophe to the best interests of the state of Israel and the people of Israel. And the logic of this also is that it is the duty of the people of the United States, in the first place, to create so powerful, so informed and so united a force for peace as to defeat Reaganism decisively and thus make possible a decent, prosperous and peaceful nation for ourselves, for our children and for our children's children.

Organize, speak, fight, SHALOM!

Continued from page 11

could make a unique contribution. The practical initiative of *Jewish Affairs* as a publication and through its readers, contacts, and contributors can reach and help mobilize hundreds of activists and thousands of voters. Experienced activists in all movements, just like those present here, will — I am sure — help get the job done. Victory over the Reaganite candidates can be won, a mortal blow to the nuclear war threat, to Reaganism and Zionism, racism and anti-Semitism dealt. A peace majority in the United States Congress will dramatically strengthen the ability of labor and its allies, of all peace forces to maximally contribute to ensuring peace - between the United States and the Soviet Union, in the Middle East, in southern Africa, in Central America - worldwide. Thank you.

Telegram to State Department From 14th Annual Jewish Affairs Dinner Protesting Denial of Visa to Colonel-General David Dragunsky and Andrey Belyaev.

The Honorable George Schultz
Secretary of State
State Department
Washington, D.C.

The denial of a visa to Colonel-General David Dragunsky, World War II hero and Soviet Jewish leader, and to Andrey Belyaev to come here to address the 14th Annual Jewish Affairs Dinner dedicated to the theme: *1986-Year of Peace-Year of Decision*, is in direct contradiction to the pursuit of the successful conclusion to the Geneva Peace Process.

We, 400 men and women gathered to hear General Dragunsky on the question of world peace, call upon you to guarantee the granting of a visa to Colonel-General Dragunsky and Andrey Belyaev so that they can be our guests at another public gathering for world peace sponsored by Jewish Affairs magazine in the near future.

Jewish Affairs

Labor Day 1986

by Morris Davis

There is no America without Labor — all that serves Labor serves the nation. All that harms Labor is treason to America. No line can be drawn between these two. Capital is only the fruit of Labor and could never exist if Labor had not first existed. Labor is superior to capital and deserves much higher consideration. Abraham Lincoln

Labor Day, the first Monday in September — the holiday of our nation's working class — is fast approaching. It was in 1882 that Peter J. McGuire, President of the Carpenters Union at a meeting of the Central Labor Union proposed that a day be set aside to demonstrate the contribution and the dignity of Labor to our nation's welfare. He proposed that the date be the first Monday in September 1882.

This proposal was overwhelmingly passed and on that day in September 1882 the workers and people of New York City were gathered in Union Square to view a Labor parade involving 25,000 workers.

As Labor Day history was being written there were many pre-cursors who were credited or who claimed credit as founders or fathers of Labor Day. One such claimant was Matthew McGuire (similar name), while in the state of Ohio there was also a claimant to the title of father of Labor Day. He was John P. Green, a Black state legislator who in 1880 introduced a bill in the legislature to celebrate Labor Day, making Ohio the first state to pass such a law. He initiated passage of legislation requiring a union label on union made goods; provided free employment agencies and required employers to pay the workers every two weeks instead of every month. He also helped pass legislation providing overtime beyond 10 hours, which railroad workers were subjected to. He also was responsible for laws requiring employers to be responsible for injuries incurred on the job. Green was State Senator from 1882 to 1892.

The Irish, however, were satisfied that no matter which McGuire was the father of Labor Day, the parenthood of Labor Day rested on the shoulders of a representative from "Erin." Labor pressed for the holiday. In 1894 President Grover Cleveland signed the law making Labor Day a legal holiday. Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor and Peter McGuire were invited to witness the signing of the law.

The first Labor Day parade on September 1882

predated the May 1 demonstration in memory of the Haymarket martyrs in the struggle for the eight hour day. Labor Day, September 1882 contributed in popularizing and demonstrating the solidarity of the workers which came to a high pitch on Labor Day. The motive of the first Labor Day parade was to demonstrate the dignity and contributions of Labor to the nation.

Labor Day 1986 comes at a time when our nation is in a grave political crisis, governed by a President who is firmly dedicated to corporate interests. A former president of the Screen Actors Guild, he soon achieved the reputation as the world's most notorious strike-breaker when he broke the strike of PATCO, the Professional Air Traffic Controller's Organization. He has, in the name of security, rearmed our nation with world destructive nuclear armaments to the glee of our military-industrial complex, whose profits have escalated to unimaginable heights. He has cut down social spending, impoverishing all social projects to meet the problems of our aged, poor, jobless and growing homeless population.

The Reagan Administration has hundreds of bases in Europe which are syphoning our nation's treasury at the expense of social needs of our people and is blatantly disregarding the calls for peace and disarmament by our allies and the nations of the world, and fabricating a Soviet menace. The peoples of the world as well as world leaders are calling on the United States to make a detente for peace, to destroy the mountains of dangerous nuclear arms that are stored for possible use, and to work for a mutual peace and detente with the Soviet Union.

Labor Day 1986 has witnessed a response to President Reagan's fanatic anti-labor, anti-people, anti-peace posture. The people's voice resounded loud and clear on Labor Day 1986 and must continue to resound even more in the day's after. □

Morris Davis, a retiree and member of the International Union of Painters and Paperhangers, is a contributor to Jewish Affairs.

Deep Sympathy
to
Family and Friends of
Morris Kamiel
Ontario, Canada

A good friend of Jewish Affairs

Editorial Board, Jewish Affairs

Cry For Peace

by Richard Davidson

When can we say we first heard it?
How may decades flag a man's hope
This cry for peace that echoes like a song.
All over the World, it reverberates like music.
Like a rhythm,
Like a dream.
No more the stench of little wars,
The rank march of imperialism's whip,
No more, we say, to brandishing the club
And harnessing the bomb
That can destroy a city's majesty,
A country's face.
We not so long ago fought a war for freedom,
Fought a war to lift the darkness of tyranny,
Fought with brothers at our side across the seas
To plant the banner of hope on a torn piece of earth.
We fought, together, to implant
The burning notes of humankind's march.
And now mad politics have tried to draw us apart,
The eagle of the Pentagon has poisonous fangs
And the drip of discomfort and suspicion gnaw at the
entrails.
The celebrated figure of the frozen manikin
Who once sold General Electric's magic
Now fails to heed this cry for peace.
Now turns his back on the groping millions.

But we are a singing people,
A people who do not want War's thumping noise,
We who grab our stalks of faith
And stand them up in the nuclear cold.
We will not lie down,
We will not be trampled,
We of our own belief together with the belief of
Others,
Who are not heirs to phoney bromides of slaughter,
Who do not prostrate themselves before TV's voice of
ancient calamity,
We who want our children to grow,
To know the roots of safety's flower,
Who want to embrace a neighbor's hand,
Some other land, and yet as close as Albany.
We who hold the picket sign,
Who march,
Who will not give in to money's grim order,
Who will not fall down before the large desk,
And the poisoned button.

We are not afraid,

We know the tunes of reaction's music
And we stand firm in the full moon rising.
We will make our own music,
This fall night our voices embracing
A world of brothers in nuclear storm.
Jew and Gentile; Black and White;
Our race the only race
The human race to be above
The crowd of general's thumping medals.
To those who stretch the long night seeking
The endless rainbow of painful fury,
We go together to heal the wounds,
To silence voices who would attack our friends,
For us all to fight the "Star War" mania
That can only hurt and kill the Universal Child.
In all of us the need for laughter,
The need for food on the table,
A fair shake for all.
A home for those without door or bed,
The need to understand in the oily dark
The prospects for a better time.
The hope of nations burning high,
The triumph of love in the pages of manufactured hate.
We are not afraid.
We who turn the plow
Or work the lathe in factory's glory.
We who model the lawyer's stance,
Or touch our future in offices brightly.
We who write the poems or stoke the engines,
Who stretch the country in the plane's new motor,
We from city, state,
Or town so small it shrinks on maps.
We from the real promise of America
Raise now our fists as a glowing ONE
To stamp out the face of aggression,
And live with the trumpets of truth.
To build that new Summit coming
With the legacy of friendship.
The saga of the new horizon.

When can we say we first heard it?
Time is fleeting.
Time is an ash in the cockpit of the wind.
Rabbi, Minister and Priest, Mother and Worker,
Time is in our hands
To blend this world into a singing jewel.
We are not afraid,
We move with passion,
We are armed with love,
To the ringing bell atop the mountain of humankind,
The hymn to Tomorrow,
The Song of Peace.

**The Progressive Cultural Club
of Philadelphia
Contributes \$1200 In Memory of Our
Deceased Members and Friends**

Hans Boettcher
Frieda Burke
David Davis
Esther Doskow
Rubin Fishbein
Robert Jaffee
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Jack Kleiman
Aaron Kushner
David Milgram
Maurice Cohen
Minnie Rubin
Ida Sappir
Sonia Weinberg

Best Wishes for the Annual Dinner

\$1,000

Suggest reprint and distribution of
Florence Fox article on "Saving Soviet Jews."
I distributed it to all rabbis in our area.

Dave Aranoff
Los Angeles, Cal.

In Memory of

Werner Groshans

Husband, Comrade, Peoples' Artist

\$500

Yetta Groshans
New York

In Memory of My Daughter

Karen

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Leo Werner
Brooklyn, NY

Greetings to **Jewish Affairs**

on its

14th Annual Dinner

Staten Island Progressive Citizens Club

Ed Wlody

Angelo D'Angelo

In Loving Memory of
My Husband and Comrade

Emmanuel Brownstein

\$100

He worked diligently for
the success of *Jewish Affairs*.

From his wife and children

Paula
Mischul
Efreim

Greetings to the

14th Annual Jewish Affairs Dinner

Sorry we cannot be with you. We join with you in
working for the Peoples Peace Treaty. We greet this
fighting magazine as the voice of the progressive forces
for peace, justice, jobs and friendship of all people
against racism, fascism, anti-Semitism, Nazism and
the KKK.

Friends of Jewish Affairs and
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Jewish Affairs

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September 10, 1986

Jewish Affairs
Managing Editor

Dear Mr. Moroze:

Just read your article on "Pro-Israel PAC's Support Reaganites in 1986 Elections."

My husband and I want to subscribe to your wonderful magazine for 2 years and have enclosed a check for \$12.00.

Yours in Peace,
Bernice E. Epstein

**DRIVE
THE WARMAKERS
OUT OF CONGRESS
IN
NOVEMBER
ELECTIONS**

Trial of Fyodor Federenko Opens in the U.S.S.R

We have received the following news story put out by the Novosti Press Agency in Moscow concerning the trial of World War II Nazi war criminal, Fyodor Federenko, who was deported to the Soviet Union by the United States, 39 years after the end of the war. We believe it will be of great interest to our readers and will help in the fight to return the many Nazi war criminals still residing in the United States to the countries where they committed their crimes, and where they await prosecution.

May 10, 1986. SIMFEROPOL, Crimean Region, Novosti Press Agency correspondent Andrei Bezruchenko reports:

A trial has opened here of Former SS Rotenwachmann Fyodor Federenko, who was deported to the Soviet Union from the U.S. in 1984.

A large crowd gathered outside long before hearings to see 79 year old Fyodor Federenko brought into the courthouse. There were whispers in the room when he was led inside under guard. Many in the city had waited for that event. Anatoly Viktorov, counsel for the defense, Zinovy Tesak, Public Prosecutor, a forensic expert and secretary took up their seats. All those present at the trial — residents of Simferopol and the region, and journalists — rose as the three members of the bench entered. Presiding Judge Mikhail Tyutyunik, with all formalities performed, read out the indictment.

Federenko, the bill said, was called up into the Red Army immediately after Nazi Germany attacked the Soviet Union in 1941. But soon after he gave himself up and volunteered for the SS troops, which the International Nuremberg Military Tribunal declared a criminal organisation for the atrocities they committed. Finishing an SS school in the Polish town of Trawniki, he was a guard in SS units at Lublin, Poland, and in Warsaw's Jewish ghetto. Later on, he served for more than a year in the Nazi extermination camp of Treblinka, in which in the course of just over a year no less than 800,000 civilians from many countries, including the U.S., were killed. At Treblinka Federenko not only conducted the unfortunate to gas chambers and brutally mistreated them, but also took a personal part in executions of the sick, old people and children in the so-called "infirmary." For his zeal in serving the Nazis Federenko was twice promoted in rank.

In 1944-1945 he served in the Nazi Camp Stut-

thof, set up as early as 1939 on the Baltic coast. During the Second World War more than 100,000 inmates from many Nazi-occupied countries were killed, tortured to death or executed here. He also served in the Pielec concentration camp, a branch of Stutthof, and afterwards was enlisted in the Volkssturm (People's Militia) in Hamburg where he stayed to the end of the war.

Fearing retribution for his crimes after the victory of the anti-Hitler coalition countries over Nazi Germany, Fyodor Federenko did not return to the Soviet Union. In 1949 he moved to the U.S.A., where he was granted American citizenship.

It was many year later, in 1981, when the Special Investigation Unit of the U.S. Department of Justice, set up not long before that, received evidence of Federenko's involvement in Nazi war crimes, that he was denaturalised and in 1984 deported to the Soviet Union.

Then the court proceeded to cross-examine Federenko, who described the circumstances of his capture and service in the SS/ He admitted having been a guard in the Treblinka extermination camp. But, he said, he had never beat anyone nor treated anybody harshly.

"Jews were among my best friends, both in the Soviet Union and later," he said. "I have not struck a person in my life."

He also denied his participation in executions in the Treblinka infirmary, except on two occasions. His refusal to take part in the shootings, which, as he alleged, he made known to his superior, was explained by Federenko as having a physical and moral effect on him.

"I could not even eat," he said.

Federenko was given the death sentence.

**UNITY OF THE PEOPLE'S
FORCES TO DEFEAT
THE REAGANITES IN
NOVEMBER ELECTIONS**

„סאָוועטיש היימלאַנד“ – 25 יאָר



ארן ווערגעליס

דער סאכאקל פון פינג און צוואנציק יאָר. סאָוועטיש היימלאַנד
 76 ראַמאנען
 109 גרעסען דערציילונגען (פאָועסטן)
 1478 דערציילונגען און נאָוועלעס
 65 פּאָעמעס
 6680 לידער
 28 פּיעסעס
 1628 ליטעראַטור-קריטישע אַרטיקלען און אַרטיקלען וועגן קונסט.



און מחיק. "א ספעציעל אַרט איז אָפּגעפירט פאַר פּובליציסטיק פּאַלקלאָר, אַרכיוו-מאַטעריאַלן, הומאָר. אינעם ערשטן נומער "עזשענאָדיק", איז גענוג צו ברענגען די איהאַלט-פּאַרצייכענונג פונעם בוך: פּראָזע און דיכטונג. כאַריס סאַנדלער. טרעפּלעך אַרום צו אַ נעס (גרעסערע דערציילונג); דינע קאַלינאָוסקאַיא. מיט אַ שיינעם געמעל אָפּן דוג (גרעסערע דערציילונג); כאַריס מאַנילער. מיט באַגייסטערטע אויגן (לידער); כאים ביידער. גרינע ראַכוועסן (לידער); מאַרק ראָזומני. גוטסקייט (פּראָזע-מינאַטיוון); יעכיאַל שרייבמאַן. דער סאַמע איקער (נאָוועלן); טעוויע גען. די עקסטערע טעלעגראַמע (גרעסערע דערציילונג). נאַטע לוריע. נעכאַמקע (אויסצוג פון אַ ראַמאַן). הערשל פּאַליאַנקער. דער מיליאַרד (דערציילונג); כאים מעלאַמור. דער פּעטער קאַסטיע (אויסצוג פון אַ ראַמאַן); עמאַנויל קאַזאַקעוויטש. טייגע-לידער פון דער אויסלענדישער יידישער ליטעראַטור. מושיע גיציס. ציטער אין דער נאַכט (דערציילונג). אָף די שפורן פונעם געשעענעם. לעוו אַרקאַדיעוו, אדע דיכטיאַר. די אומבאַווסטע (דאָקומענטאַלע דערציילונג). וועג-נאַטיצן. אַרן ווערגעליס. דאָרט. וווּ איך בין נאָך ניט געווען. צום 125-טן געבורטסאַג פון שאַלעם-אַלייכעמען. סערגיי באַרהדין. יורי ווערטשענקאַ. דמיטראַ פּאָוויטשקאַ. לעאַרד לענטש (אַרויסטרעטונגען אָפּן יוביליי-אַונט אין מאַסקוו). פון דער ליטעראַטור-געשיכטע. אוראַן גוראַליני. טיפע וואַרצלען (עסיי).

מיר באַגריסן די רעדאַקציע "סאָוועטיש היימלאַנד"

אייער אַרבעט פאַר די לעצטע 25 יאָר האָט צוגעטראָכן אַ באַדייטנדיקן צושטייער צו דעם קאַמף פאַר שלום, דעטאַנט און פּרייטשאַפט צווישן פעלקער. זעצט פאַר אייער גוטע אַרבעט און זאָלן אייער באַמאָונגען-געקרוינט ווערן מיט דערפּאַלג.



ווען מאַטליס איז געקומען קיין ניו־יאָרק, אין 1928 איז עלטער פון 18 יאָר, איז ער גלייך געוואָרן אַן אַרבעטער אין אַ קליינעם מאַשין־שאַפּ אין מאַנהעטן. ער איז געוואָרן זייער אַקטיוו אין דער עלעקטרישער, ראַדיאָ און מאַשין־אַרבעטער יוניאָן "די־איי". ער איז באַקאַנט געוואָרן אונטערן נאָמען דזשיימס מאַטליס און זיך אויסגעצייכנט אַלס יוניאָך־אַרגאַניזאַטאָר און ער איז מיט דער צייט באַשטימט געוואָרן אַלס דירעקטאָר פֿון אַרגאַניזאַציע פֿון דער נאַציאָנאַלער יוניאָן פֿון 1937 ביז 1961. ביי דער נאַציאָנאַלער קאָסווענשאַן אין 1961 איז ער דערוויילט געוואָרן אַלס דער נאַציאָנאַלער סעקעטאַר פֿון רער עלעקטרישער זיניאָן.

דעם פערטל יאָרהונדערט באַקומען די ליבהאַבער פון אונדזער ליטעראַרישער שאַפונג אַלץ נייע און נייע ראַמאַנען, דערציילונגען, לידער, פּאָעמעס, ליטעראַטור־פּאַרשערישע עסייען און אַרכיו־מאַטעריאַלן — אַן אויצער פונעם געדרוקטן ייִדישן וואָרט. דער אָנזען פֿון דער ייִדישער ליטעראַטור אין סאָוועטנפּאַרבאַנד איז פֿאַר דעם צייט אַפּשניט אומגעוויינלעך אויסגעוואַקסן, אירע ווערק זיינען געוואָרן פּאָפּולער און באַליבט צווישן טויזנטער און טויזנטער לייענער אין סאָוועטנפּאַרבאַנד און אין אַנדערע לענדער פֿון דער וועלט.

"סאָוועטיש היימלאַנד" קומט צו זיין 25־יאָריקן יוביליי מיט אַ באַדייטנדיקער אַנזאַמלונג פֿון שעפּערשיקייט. ער איז ניט נאָר רייך אין אינהאַלט נאָר אויך עסטעטיש אויסגעפורעמט מיט גראַפֿישע און מאַלערישע מוסטערן. צוזאַמען מיט יעדן זשורנאַל־נומער באַקומען דער לייענער אַ ביכל נייעסע קינסטלערישע ווערק פֿון היינטצייטיקער ליטעראַטור, ווי אויך פֿון דער ייִדישער קלאַסיק.

אַ פּעריאָדישער יאָרבוך אין רוסיש לויט די מאַטעריאַלן פֿון "סאָוועטיש היימלאַנד"

דער "יעזשענאַדניק" פֿון דער סאָוועטישער ייִדישער ליטעראַטור, וועמענס ערשטער נומער, פֿאַרן 1985, איז אַרויס פֿון דרוק אָף רוסיש, הייסט טאַקע "יאָר נאָך יאָר" אין איר אַריינפֿיר־נאָטיץ זאָגט צו די רעדאַקציע, אַז דער לייענער פֿונעם "יעזשענאַדניק" זעט באַקומען אַ פּאַרשטעלונג וועגן דער שאַפונג פֿון די ייִדישע פּראָזאַיקער, פּאָעטן, דראַמאַטורגן, ליטעראַטור־פּאַרשער, קריטיקער, ווי אויך "וועגן דער קלאַסיק, וואָס איז געשאַפֿן געוואָרן אַלץ ייִדיש". "עס וועלן פּובליקירט ווערן מאַטעריאַלן וועגן דעם ייִדישן טעאַטער, ייִדישער מאַלעריי

פּאַרלייענען לידער וועגן בעסאַראַביע און סאַראַקי ביים דניעסטער.

גראַדע איז יענע וואָך מיר אָנגעקומען דורך פּאַסט פֿון מאַקסווע דער נאָר וואָס דערשינענער ערשטער נומער "סאָוועטיש היימלאַנד" פֿון יולי־אויגוסט 1961.

אַז אין האָב אַ בלעטער געטאָן די יויטן און דערזען, אַז דער ערשטע שרייבער אריף זייט 6 איז יאַחמאַל שרייבמאַן, פֿון וואַד־ראַשאַקאָו, בעסאַראַביע, און דערנאָך קומען סאָך 4 דיכטער פֿון בעסאַראַביע: יעקב שטערענבערג, פֿון ליפּקאַן; יאַסל לערנער, פֿון בריטשאַן; מאַטל סאַקציער, פֿון לעאַווע און מאיר באַראַץ, פֿון דאַרף שורי, האָב אַיך באַשלאָסן אויפשפּילן ביי דער פּאַרזאַמלונג דעם טריאַומף פֿון 5 בעסאַראַבער שרייבער אין ערשטן נומער פֿון אַזאַ שיינעם און ווירדיקן נייעם ייִדישן ליטעראַרי־קינסטלערישן זשורנאַל.

דער איינפאַל איז געווען אַ געלונגענער. דער עולם האָט מיט באַנייטערונג אויפגענומען די שאַפונגען פֿון די בעסאַראַבער אין מאַקסווער זשורנאַל און מיך געבעטן זיי אַבאָנירן דורכן שרייבער־פּאַראַיין פֿון "יאָיקף", וואו אין ביזן דאָן געווען אין דער עקזעקוטיווע.

25 יאָר "סאָוועטיש היימלאַנד"

אין האָב זיך דערמאַנט יענעם יום־טובֿיקן אָונט, ווייל עס פּרייט מיך זייער צו באַגריסן דעם זשורנאַל "סאָוועטיש היימלאַנד" דעם שעף־רעדאַקטאָר אהרון ווערגעליס און זיינע רעדאַקציע־מיטאַרבעטער צו דער געלעגנהייט פֿון 25 יאָר שעפּערישער ליטעראַרי־קינסטלערישער אַקטיוויטעט.

דער זשורנאַל "סאָוועטיש היימלאַנד" איז אַריינגעטראָגן אין זיין 25־טן יאַרטאָג. אין מעשעך פֿון אַט

וידוישע ענינים

א בעסאראבער פייערונג אין ניו-יאָרק

מיט 25 יאָר צוריק

(צו דער געלעגנהייט פון יוביליי פון "סאָוועטיש היימלאַנד")

פון דוד סעלצער

אין דער עלעקטרישער סטאָציע פון "זעמסקער אופראָווע". ער פלעגט דאָרט אַרומגיין אין זיין בלויער בלוזע און לעדערנעם פּאַרטוך און אַרומוישן מיט אַ וויכער שמאַטע די מאַשינעריע און אַרײַנשפּריצן פּעטראָל אין די טראַנסמיסיע־רעדן און צײַנער.

זייער פּאָפּולער איז יאָמקעלע געוואָרן צווישן די רעוואָלוציאָניערע אַרבעטער און פּראַפּסיאָנעזער יונג־וואָרג ווען ער איז דערהויבן געוואָרן אַלס דער פּערזענלעכער שאַפּער פון דעם שטאַטישן "גאַלאַוואַ".

אין דעם באַזאָזש־טייל פון אױטאָמאָביל, צו וועלכן בלויז ער האָט געהאַט אַ שליסל, פלעגט ער אױסבאַהאַלטן און צעפירן, ווען נױטיק, די רעוואָלוציאָניערע ליטעראַטור פון די אונטערערדישע קעמערלעך אין די פּראַפּעסיאָנעלע פּאַראַינינגן.

ווען מאַטליס איז געקומען קיין ניו־יאָרק, אין 1928 אין עלטער פון 18 יאָר, איז ער גלייך געוואָרן אַן אַרבעטער אין אַ קליינעם מאַשין־שאַפּ אין מאַנהעטן. ער איז געוואָרן זייער אַקטיוו אין דער עלעקטרישער, ראַדיאָ און מאַשין־אַרבעטער יוניאָן "ד־איי". ער איז באַקאַנט געוואָרן אונטערן נאָמען דזשעײַמס מאַטליס און זיך אױסגעצײכנט אַלס יוניאָן־אָרגאַניזאַטאָר און ער איז מיט דער צײַט באַשטימט געוואָרן אַלס דירעקטאָר פון אָרגאַניזאַציע פון דער נאַציאָנאַלער יוניאָן פון 1937 ביז 1961. ביי דער נאַציאָנאַלער קאָנסענשאַן אין 1961 איז ער דערוויילט געוואָרן אַלס דער נאַציאָנאַלער סעקרעטאַר פון דער עלעקטרישער יוניאָן.

אַט דעם טראַומף האָט מען יענעם שבת אָונט, אין אױגוסט 1961, געפיערט אין ניו־יאָרק.

מיין בייטראַג צו יענעם אָונט

מיך האָט די סאָראַקער גרופע אײַנגעלאָרן צו רעדן און פּאַרליעמענטן ביי יענער פייערונג. איך האָב זיך געקליבן

אין אַ שבת אָונט, אױגוסט 1961, האָט זיך אַן עולם פון עטלעכע צענדליק בעסאָראַבער לאַדסלייט פּאַרזאַמלט אין אַ ניו־יאָרקער רעסטאָראַן צו פּאַרצײכענען אַ צווייענדיקן יום־טובּ: דאָס דערהויבן ווערן פון אײנעם פון זיי צום אַמט פון אַ גענעראַל־סעקעטאַר פון אַ נאַציאָנאַלער טרייד־יוניאָן און דאָס דערשיינען פון דעם ערשטן נומער פון אַ נייעם ייִדישן זשורנאַל "סאָוועטיש היימלאַנד" אין מאַקסווע.

באַצײכערט פון דעם היימיש־פּריידיקן מאַמענט, אָנגעוועטיקט מיט די געשמאַקטע מאַלדאָווישע מאַכלים, אָנגעוויפט מיט די שפּילעוודיקע בעסאָראַבער וויינען און אױפגעטראָגן פון דער קאַפּעליע פון בעסאָראַבער קלעזמער, וואָס האָבן אַזוי צעהױליערט אַ געטאַנץ, אַז עטלעכע קליענטן פון אַ צווייטן צימער זײַנען אָנגעלאָפּן אױסצוגעפּינען וואָס עס איז דאָ די שמחה.

אײן פּאַרל האָט מיך אַ כאַפּ געטאַן און מיט נײַגער געפרעגט:

— זאָגט נאָר, וואו איז דאָס לאַנד בעסאָראַביע, און מיט וואָס איז עס אַזוי באַרימט?

— עס געפינט זיך צווישן די טייכן דײַנעסער און דעם פּרוט, די קאַפּאַטן־בערג און דעם שוואַרצן ים און שמש מיט קאָרן און מיט טרויבן און מיט מילך און האַניק. אַלע אַרומ האָבן אױסגעשאַסן אין אַ געלעכטער און אַרײַנגעצײגן די פרעגער אין דעם טאַגן פון דער "האַראַ".

יאָנקעלע מאַטליס פון סאָראַקי

דער בעל־דבר פון דער שמחה, דער שוואַרץ־הענעוויקער יאָנקעלע פון סאָראַקי, מיט ברענענדיקע אױגן, הױכע ברעמען און קורצע וואַנצעלעך, איז געווען באַליבט און באַרימט צווישן זײַנע אַבסעלייט.

אַלס 16־יעריקער בחור איז ער געוואָרן אין זיין געבוירן־שטעטל אַ לערן־ינגל אין דעם עלעקטרישן פּאַך