

INDEX TO SUB-FOLDER FOR 1975 IN FOLDER 1974/75/76 HUMAN RIGHTS

J. Minker

May 10, 2005

DATE	TO	FROM	DESCRIPTION
01/16/75	Ovsei Gelman	JM	Responds to 01/01/75 letter. JM received all letters and papers Gelman sent. JM will pay fee for him to attend IJCAI75.
01/19/75	Pat Winston	JM	Follow up to phone conversation 01/06/75. Lerner agreed to be on panel as have Raphael and McCarthy. Encloses JM letter to Lerner asking if he would be interested in being on panel at IJCAI75 if Winston agrees panel is relevant. Asks for Winston's suggestions on other Soviets for panel.
02/03/75	JM	L. Mazlack	Asks if there ill be rump conference outside USSR
	Mazlack	JM	Responds - no rump conf outside of Tbilisi.
02/25/75	JM	Marc Eisenstadt	Aler at U. Edinburgh. Re JM August 1974 SIGART News. Discussed activities at Edinburgh in support of refuseniks. Includes info on Leonid Plyushch.
02/27/75	JM	Yudenfrend	Sends regards from Ovsei Gelman and asks if JM received his letters of 10/27/74 and 1/3/75 and papers of 9/12. She and Ovsei grateful to JM.
03/ /75			CURRENT - Newsletter of CCS. Provides info on what CCS is doing.
03/26/75	M. M'Bow	Galler	Hopes UNESCO reverses decision to exclude Israel
05/01/75	Lerner	Pat Winston	Invitation to be in panel IJCAI75 - 09/03-08/75
05/14/75	V. Chavchandize	Russell Ackoff	Concerned about Ovsei Gelman. Asks for his help
05/ /75	Russell Ackoff	V. Chavchanidze	Says Ovsei Gelman 'is outside his competence'.
06/06/75	JM	Aaron Finerman	Resolution on ACM sponsorship of international confs was passed by Council at past meeting. Appreciates JM's support in making it possible.
06/09/75		JCC	Meeting on 06/25/75
06/11/75		Computerworld	Herb Grosch editorial about 'Changing Sincerities' of those support openness for foreign attendees at US meetings, but some scientists refuse to ask NSF not to support AI conf in Soviet Union.

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06/12/75	Pat Winston	JM	Informs him of NY Times, article by Chris. S. Wren Sunday, June 8, 1975, page 2 saying Lerner barred by KGB from Tbilisi. JM checked accuracy of article. "The action by the K.G.B. is undoubtedly a direct response to your letter of invitation to Dr. Lerner to participate in the Conference. Several individuals who I know visited Dr. Lerner and personally delivered your letter to him. One individual brought back a letter to me from Dr. Lerner dated May 28, 1975 in which he states, that he officially requested the Organizing Committee of IJCAI-75 to book a double room for him in Tbilisi August 31, 1975 through September 8, 1975. This request by Dr. Lerner undoubtedly precipitated the action by the K.G.B." Quotes Raphael's confidence in Organizing Comm. to do the right thing. Regrets Soviets have jeopardized the conference.
07/ /75		ACM Resolution	<i>CACM</i> , July 1975, Vol. 18, No. 7, page 425 Resolution on ACM Sponsorship of International Conferences.
07/01/75	A. Rosenfeld	V. Lumelsky	Asks for help to find a job. Worked with Aizerman in USSR. Was in Rome when he sent letter.
07/01/75	SIGART Members	JM	Reviews Lerner situation and urges conference be withdrawn from USSR. JM will not attend and asks colleagues to support him and not attend. JM cleared letter with Winston before sending it.
07/01/75	SIGART Member	CCS	JM letter to SIGART. Announcement by CCS.
07/02/75	JM	Marc Eisenstadt	At conf. Theoretical Issues in Natural Language Processing in Boston, MA 06/10-13/75 organized petition for Turchin and Plyushch. Sends petition and impressive list of signatores. Sending copy to SIGART, Nature, Sov. Acad. Sci. and Brezhnev. Includes exchange between Meltzer and Sandewall. Sandewall provides a rationale why Manna's denial of a visa to attend an internal conf. in USSR may not apply to an international conference.
07/03/75	V. Chavchanidze	Ackoff	Sorry questions he asked outside his competence.
07/05/75	Colleagues	Bob Adelstein	Trip report re refusenik visit to USSR 05/25-26/75 Told Lerner of his invitation to IJCAI4. Lerner had not received yet invitation. Visited Brailovsky and Levich, and Gelman in Tbilisi. Told Gelman his fee for IJCAI75 was paid. Gelman had not yet received the information.

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07/11/75	JM	Manekofsky	Note that Gelman has been promised a visa. Wonders if USSR wants him out before IJCAI4.
07/17/75		Nature v.256	Article about USSR meetings. Discuss IJCAI4 and possible participation of Gel'man and Lerner. Report Gel'man told he would receive exit visa. Nature speculates sending both out of country '... could be the easiest way out for Soviet authorities of what might otherwise prove an embarrassing and publicity provoking situation.'
07/18/75	JM	Ackoff	Just received word from Gelman. Was released is on way to Israel. Received appeal from Vladimir A. Staroselsky, Moscow. Asks if JM knows about him.
07/22/75	Russell Ackoff	JM	Thanks for informing JM Ovsei Gelman released.
07/22/75	Marc Eisenstadt	JM	Received Eisenstadt letter of 07/22/75. Sends SIGART letter re boycott. Asks support from Edinburgh faculty.
07/25/75	JM	Werner Frank	Note from Werner sending article about Mel Stein a lawyer who, with other lawyers are intervening in in the USSR on behalf of Soviet citizens for offenses related to attempting to emigrate to Israel.
07/25/75	Lerner	JM	Disappointed KGB barring him from Tbilisi. Says he wrote to 2,700 SIGART members. Great support. Reports 282 favor removal from USSR & will not attend. 72 favor removal from USSR. 6 do not support JM thinks Conf. will be held but protests will take place. Urges Lerner to make cassette tape of comments he would have made on panel <i>only</i> on relevant subject and JM will see it is read at conf. Asks if wants his Active Systems paper read for him, if possible. Assures him Organizing Comm. will be responsible and will do the right thing. bcc: Sandewall/McCarthy/Winston
07/27/75	Academician Berg	IJCAI4 Comm	Max Clowes, Les Earnest, Pat Hayes, Carl Hewitt, John McCarthy, Marvin Minsky, Erik Sandewall, Pat Winston. NY Times article says Lerner will not be allowed to attend. Two Soviet organizers, Dr. Victor Briabin and Dr. V.L. Stefanjuk state NY Times article was incorrect. Feel strongly re Lerner. 'We have agreed among ourselves, and have informed those colleagues who have asked our opinion, that there will be a public protest at the Conference in Tbilisi if Lerner is not allowed to take part. Not publicizing this decision. A.I. Berg, Council Cybernetics, USSR Academy of Sciences.

DATE	TO	FROM	DESCRIPTION
07/28/75	Harrison Brown	Lilli Chertoff	Alerts president of ICSU of IJCAI4 problems. Says organizing oommittee making every effort to thru Acad of Sci to facilitate Lerner's attendance.
08/06/75	J. Gelfand	McCarthy	Informs him he is replacing Jack Minker as co-chair IJCAI4 panel "Math, Cybernetics, A" Discusses his ideas on panel where JM left off. McCarthy is continuing Lerner's participation. Notes that IJCAI is an organization of individuals and not of national organizations, Pat Winston was given complete authority over th program. McCarthy also invited Max Clowes in addition to Raphael. Understands that Andrei Ershov and Victor Briabin are also going to take part. Attached 07/27/75 letter to Academician Berg signed by Organizing Committee.
08/12/75	JM	Lerner	Responds JM letter 07/25/75. NY Times article is factual. His letter to organizing committee for "booking of the hotel is still unanswered; Dr. Samoilenko avoids not only the meetings but even telefon talks. So am sure all positive statements from him and his colleagues are just a deception. Is preparing cassette as JM asked, has no time to send it now. His short paper on Active Systems not appropriate for IJCAI4, but parts will be in panel talk. Paper on Active Systems enclosed.
08/13/75		Computerworld.	Edith Holmes reports on response to JM letter to boycott Tbilisi conference. Responses from Japan, France, Canada, West Germany, The Netherlands, Great Britain, Australia, South Africa, Puerto Rico, Argentina, Israel, Mexico and Greece. 'Observers indicated that, if a protest is held in Tbilisi, it will be the first time such action has been taken within the scientific community at an international conference.'
08/ /75		Datamation	Reports about IJCAI4 - Minker not acceptable for panel, Lerner not permitted to attend. Lerner quoted as saying, he had also "been advised to withdraw his application to emigrate.
09/02/75		Schedule IJCAI4	Schedule talks/panels/activities at IJCAI4. Panel AI, Math, and Cybernetics. McCarthy and I.M. Gel'fand Co-chairs 09/04/75 10:30am-12 noon.

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09/03/75	Computer World	Jean Sammet, Pres.	ACM objects to Aug. 20 editorial in which it was stated "... ACM, as one of the participants in the ..., has apparently buckled under to Soviet , demandsviolating its own tenets which bar participation in meetings that do not honor the ICSU stadards of scientific interchange." Sammet states, "ACM is not an official participant in IJCAI and therefore cannot withdraw from something it is not in."
09/09/75		NY Times, page 3	David K. Shipler reports Moscow Admits Would-be Emigre to Science Parley. McCarthy told newsmen before conference that Lerner tape-recorded a reading of his paper. Should he be barred from entering, his tape would be played at the conference. Soviet authorities retreated and Lerner allowed in. Lerner quoted as saying, "I consider the event a large success for the international scientific community." he declared in a written statement. "evidence that systematic and persistent effort by our foreign colleagues is capable of overcoming the resistance of the authorities to free contacts of scientists."
09/11/75	CCS Exec Board	Cohen/Stanley	CCS deeply indebted to Dr. Minker. This action can and should be replicated.
09/18/75	Pat Winston	JM	Expresses admiration for his efforts re IJCA4, his understanding of my role, and his leadership leading to the breakthrough of Lerner being on the panel. "... you will always look back and be pleased with the central role you played in the cause of freedom for all scientists. Our Soviet scientific colleagues, and indeed all scientists throughout the world, now know that they have friends who will speak out on their behalf, and will not forget them when they are oppressed.
09/18/75	John McCarthy	JM	Similar letter as to Winston 09/18/75
09/18/75	Erik Sandewall	JM	Similar letter as to Winston 09/18/75
09/19/75	Lilli Chertoff	JM	Grateful for her support IJCAI4. Could not have been a success without her help. Asks that letter appear in CCS Newsletter.

DATE	TO	FROM	DESCRIPTION
Undated		Minker	IJCAI4–A Retrospective by JM. Reviews outcome.
09/22/75		Andrei Ershov	13 page handwritten note by Ershov on his comments concerning IJCAI4
9/22/75		Andrei Ershov	English translation of 13 page handwritten note by Andrei Ershov, “A Note on a Political Campaign in U.S.A. Related to the Fourth International Joint Conference on AI.”
09/27/75		McCarthy	McC report on Participation of a Would-Be Emigrant in a Scientific Conference in the Soviet Union. Reviews issues, what happened in Moscow and in Tbilisi and provides conclusions: 1. Sometimes foreign pressure can get Soviet orgs. to behave according to intl. sci. and norms. Success not predicted in advance of trying. 2. Important org. comm. took a stand. Delegation of authority to general chair/prog. chair allowed them to act without meetings on what they thought was concensus. 3. IJCAI involved circumstances will not repeat. Thus easier for Soviets to make concession to org. comm. that had resisted attempts to move conf. from USSR. 4. No Soviets objected Lerner. But none took action on his behalf. Presumably easier to make concessions to foreign view rather than express own view. 5. Never clear who made final Soviet decision though discussed at level of Presidium of Acad. Sci. Loss of face by Soviets was a consideration. 6. The motivations of individuals and the local conditions played an important role. 7. Many of us are still unsure how to balance not mixing politics with sci. considerations regarding human rights. Soviet scientists with whom discussed not sure if it was good, bad, or irrelevant. Report takes no position. 8. Other sci orgs may resolve issues differently. Maintaining any but passive position will require good commun. with Soviet side and way of making prompt decisions. Note from Hanan Samet states, ‘Here is the report you requested from John.’

DATE	TO	FROM	DESCRIPTION
10/20/75	JM	ACM	2nd request for payment on invoice for \$56.08. Not stated why invoice, presumably for list of names and addresses SIGART members. Payment delayed since Chertoff was away. Check sent on 12/04/75.
10/24/75	National Board	Stanley and Cohen	CCS co-chairs report USSR reneged on pledge to release Benjamin Levich
10/27/75	Winston/McCarthy	JM	Sent IJCAI4 – A Retrospective and asked if they disagreed comments made. To be sent to SIGART.
11/10/75	Cong. Burton	JM	Wishes Congressman Phillip Burton a speedy recovery. Had heart tests at Bethesda Naval Hosp. Thanks him for delivering my letter to and response from Lerner re IJCAI4. Encloses note regarding Sept. 1975 Tbilisi conf.
11/10/75	Cong. H. Fish	JM	Thanks him for delivering my letter to and response from Lerner. Encloses note regarding Sept. 1975 Tbilisi conf.
11/11/75	Lee Earman	JM	Sends Retrospective and letter from Goldshteins dated 09/08/75 re their experiences at IJCAI4.
12/14/75		CCS Mtg.	Items in mtg. folder include agenda, JM report, IJCAI4–A Retrospective and McCarthy report Participation of a Would-Be Emigrant in a Scientific Conference in the Soviet Union. Other items also in folder - are not related IJCAI4