

# INDEX TO: HUMAN RIGHTS BINDER 1987 (hr-1987.tex)

J. Minker

February 26, 2008

DATE	TO	FROM	DESCRIPTION
01/05/87	CCS Board	Hirsch	Reviews activities in past 6 months. Attaches News Releases. Scientists petition USSR for imprisoned colleague, Roald Zelichonek. Physicists score USSR for mistreatment of Prof. Eduard Nadgorny. American Scientist press for emigration of two entomologists: Drs. Igor and Inna Ioffe Uspenskii. Action alert for Viktor Fulmakht, computer scientist.
02/24/87	Findler	Minker	Thanks him for his attached letter to TIME re Yatushenko. Minker recently read an article in the Washington Post in which Yevtushenko's story about Robert Kennedy was confirmed by someone working for Kennedy. Findler letter to TIME protested the article by Yevtushenko in TIME, February 9, 1987, pp. 32-33, 'A Poet's View of Glasnost.' Yevtushenko believed that Glasnost was a reality and related a story about Robert Kennedy who he visited in NYC in 1966. Two Soviet writers, Andrei Sinyavski and Yuli Daniel, published in the West under pseudonyms were outed by someone. In his apartment, Kennedy invited him to his bathroom and turned on the shower. He told Yevtushenko that it was done by the US, "Because our people wanted to take advantage of the situation, and your people took the bait. Because of Vietnam, our standing in the world has begun to diminish both at home and abroad. We needed a propaganda counterweight. Findler believed that Yevtushenko was, 'A careful opportunist, he has served the Soviet system well as the window dresser "critic", who could still travel freely and frequently to the West to cultivate the international literary brotherhood of enlightened people. He was skeptical of the Kennedy story.

DATE	TO	FROM	DESCRIPTION
03/14/87	Minker	Frey	Kathy Frey returned from tour to USSR to visit friends Col. Lev Oivsischcher and wife Tatanya.Oivsischsher invited Alexandr Lerner to translate for her. Frey is trying to help Oivsischcher obtain exit visa. Now that she met Lerner who told her about his efforts to join his family in Israel. Wants to help him. Spoken to churches about Lerner.Her friend Leona Heir from Wichita Kansas also wants to help. Asks for Sonia's address, encloses photo of her and Lerner. Asks Minker advice how to help. See Minker response 04/27/87.
03/19/87	Marchuk	Minker	Reminded Marchuk of his visit to the University of Maryland at we met and discussed Dr. Aleksandr Lerner, a Soviet cyberneticist. At that time Marchuk was head of the Novosibirsk Academy of Science. Marchuk said that, unfortunately he could not help Lerner and 'could not understand why he was not given an exit visa.' Writing to him since the NY Times reported that Lerner would never receive an exit visa. Minker said, 'In this era of 'glasnost', it would be an appropriate gesture to permit Lerner to emigrate from the Soviet Union to join his daughter family. Such a move would impress scientists throughout the world with the implementation of the new 'glasnost' policy. Now that you are President of the Soviet Academy of Sciences in Moscow, I hope that you will use your influence to permit the Dr. Lerner to obtain an exit visa from the Soviet Union.
03/19/87	Zimmerman	Minker	Wrote to Amb. Warren Zimmerman, Chair, US Delegation to the Vienna CSCF Follow UP Meeting. Sent copy of letter of 03/19/87 to Marchuk and asked Lerner's case be raised at the meeting. Appreciates his good work in Vienna.
03/19/87	Schifter	Minker	Forwards letters of 03/19/87 to Marchuk and Zimmerman to Amb. Richard Schifter, Ass't. Secy.I Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs for his interest.
04/03/87	Lerner	Estrin	Informs Lerner he is to receive a letter from Charles E. Young, Chancellor UCLA inviting him to serve as Regents Lecturer at UCLA for four weeks during 1987-1988 academic year. Informs him of remuneration and round trip economy class ticket. Estrin will be his host. Enclosed "UCLA Facts 1986-87." Asks Lerner if he can obtain an exit visa which will permit him to receive compensation for his services; if he could complete and send him the Request Form for a J-1 visa to enter US and send it to his office: Lerner will need to obtain a Taxpayer number when he arrives since approximately 30% will be withheld for taxes.
04/03/87	Minker	Estrin	Encloses copy of letter to Lerner inviting him UCLA. Attaches copy of letters to Marchuk, Gorbachev, Dubinin, Shultz, Zimmermann, Cranston, Wilson and Brown. Offering a stipend of \$8000 to be a Regents' Lecturer at UCLA for four weeks during 1987-1988 academic year by Charles E. Young, Chancellor UCLA. Requests Minker have package hand delivered to Lerner.

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04/03/87		Pismenny	CV of Alex Pismenny, born 02/21/55 in Leningrad, USSR. Grad of Moscow Inst. for Electronical Machine Building. Diploma on decomposition of algorithms and finite automata. One year post-grad course on CAD systems. Describes other experience and lists publications. In March 1987 asked for political asylum in Greece and applied for emigration to the US.
04/11/87	Zimmerman	Minker	Encloses letter to Marchuk of 03/19/87 regarding Lerner and the notion that he still knows Soviet secrets after 16 years. Asks that Ambassador Zimmerman raise the issue in the Vienna CSCE Follow Up Meeting regarding Lerner.
04/14/87	Hirsch	Labzebnik	Provides information on Dr. Valeriy Kanevsky, computer scientist from Kiev received PhD from Novosibirsk Univ. in 1969. Denied permission to emigrate to Israel in 1979 where he has relatives. He and wife, Natasha lost their jobs (son Victor 16 years old). Working some part time jobs in programming related to medicine. Provides address, re applied for emigration and wants to be on all lists of refuseniks.
04/??/87	Minker	Frank	Gary Frank of University of Miami sent two photos - one of him and Lerner and one of his wife Barbara and Lerner. Both photos dated 08/86. Note from Gary was not dated. States that there is increasing concern about the "state security cases", despite the increased immigration in recent months.
04/16/87	Tombka	Minker	Handwritten note to Elsie and Jack Tombka thanking them for making a contribution in my honor. Enclosed invited paper at SIGMOD conference.
04/17/87	Estrin	Minker	Phoned Aleksandr Lerner on 04/08/87 informing him of the UCLA invitation to him to be a Regents lecturer for four weeks. Lerner was honored by the invitation and asked that I convey his great appreciation to him and Chancellor Young. Noted that the USSR has denied him permission to travel outside of his country. Lerner was also pleased that Estrin had written to Gorbachev, Amb. Dubinin and Academician Marchuk. Minker expressed his gratitude to EStrin for what he had done.
04/23/87	Minker	CCS	Telephone conversation with Doug Wade, Assistant to Richard Schifter made by someone at the CCS. The State Department has no impression there is a formal procedure that a refusenik should follow in appealing to the Supreme Soviet. Recommend refuseniks simply write to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and inform the State Department so they can put pressure on Soviets if the Supreme Soviet does not take up the question. The new emigration law states that, after all applications have been filed, applicants should receive a reply within 1 month, or 6 months in extraordinary cases. Same procedure should apply to Supreme Soviet, but not certain. Only written proof of new policy re appeals to Supreme Soviet is a TASS report of 04/16/87, which mentioned it in passing and did not treat it as if it were new.

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04/27/87	Gourlay	Minker	Gourlay is coordinating efforts to find employment for computer professionals whose human rights had been violated. Minker encloses letter from Alex Pismeny to him and to Saul Amarel 04/03/87. Pismeny in Greece seeking political asylum and immigration to US. A computer programmer who views himself as a super-programmer. Asks Gourlay to contact Pismeny and inform him of possible opportunities. Thanks him for his efforts and asks to be informed of his correspondence with Pismeny. Attached letter from Pismeny to Minker reminds Minker that he lived in Bulgaria and had helped send letters and papers to Minker and Hirsch re Grechanovsky. Had been trying to reach Greece for 3 years to join his wife. Is now in Greece. Needs to have a prospect for work in USA. Summarizes experience and asks for advice on job-seeking. Provides address in Greece where he can be contacted. Letter from Amarel to Minker of 04/19/87 attaches letter from Pismeny and asks Minker for advice to Pismeny. Pismeny letter to Amarel and Minker are similar.
04/27/87	Frey	Minker	Responds to letter from Frey 03/14/87. Believes she is doing the right thing speaking at churches and other groups re Lerner and others. Important to send letters to Soviet officials so they realize the world has not forgotten about the. Minker spoke to Lerner a week ago and he asked Minker to send regards to individuals who support his cause. Thanks her for her interest.
04/28/87	Frank	Minker	Encloses letters and material from UCLA to deliver to Lerner when he next visits him in a few weeks. Minker spoke to Lerner and he knows of the invitation. Suggests that Lerner write a letter to UCLA saying he received package and encloses suggested draft of letter. Attaches note of CCS conversation with Mr. Wade of Amb. Schifter's office that clarifies what Lerner should do.
05/04/87	Young	Lerner	Letter from Lerner to Chancellor Young of UCLA accepting invitation to UCLA suggested by Minker.
05/08/86			Invitation of Joint Leadership of House and Senate at a ceremony of welcome to Natan (Anatoly) Shcharansky, Tuesday, May 13, 1986 at 11:00am in the Great Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol.
05/08/87	Mayergoyz	Minker	Asks if he has any ideas of job for Dr. Yanushevsky in EE Dep't. Attaches letter from Semyon Berkovich of George Washington Univ. who sent Minker Yanushevsky's CV.

DATE	TO	FROM	DESCRIPTION
06/07/87	Minker	Kilov	<p>Thanks Minker for his help in emigrating from USSR. Believes Minker lists helped. Discusses the Soviet education system. Computer scientists take 5.5 years from University or Institute. Student prepares “diploma paper” of independent research under a supervisor and “defended” before a commission (usually the Faculty). There is also an external examiner and paper of 30–80 pages, written during 6–9 mos. After successful completion obtains “diploma” and the right to work as a computer specialist. Specialists may continue studies. Must receive permission to pass entry exams. Must provide character reference signed by his boss, Communist Party boss (local) and trade union boss. Phrase n reference must say applicant “devoted to the ideas of the Communist Party.” Without this applicant not permitted to apply. If he gets “successful” character may be permitted to pass entry exams, one of which is “History of Communist Party.” After successful passing exams (which may not be case if applicant is Jewish). A “commission” decides if accepted. studies for at least 3 yrs., ending in “candidate dissertation.” If defended successfully the whole dossier goes to “Highest Attestation Committee” in Moscow who may or may not approve result. System developed under Stalin in 30s to raise salary of successfully defended dissertation. Salary can never be lowered whether or not inactive scientifically. System changed under Gorbachev to require scientific activity.</p>
06/09/87	Young	Minker	<p>Described that Estrin had asked Minker to have Chancellor Young’s invitation to Lerner hand-delivered to Lerner. Lerner dictated a letter to me in telephone conversation in April 1987. Typed and sent letter to him. Encloses signed letter from Lerner and signed J1 Visa. “Individual who visited Lerner stated that Lerner met and spoke at great length with the General Secretary, Academician Scriavin of the Soviet Academy of Sciences at the beginning of May. Academician Scriavin assured Dr. Lerner that the Academy is not keeping him in the Soviet Union. Dr. Lerner, therefore, requested that notables such as you, write the Soviet Academy of Science in his support. If it is at all possible for you to request that the two Senators from California and the Congressman who represents the district in which UCLA resides write letters supporting Dr. Lerner’s cause, he will be very grateful to them and to you.” Thanks him for his efforts.</p>

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06/09/87	Slissenko	Minker	Enclosed per his request was paper, "Logic and Databases a Deductive Approach and more recent paper "Perspectives in Deductive Databases." Under separate cover sending him a paper on another subject. Second letter encloses copy of paper on human rights asking him for his help to individuals listed in report. Attached undated letter from Slissenko who states, "Thank you for your letter of June 9, 1987. By some post malfunction I have received 2 of your papers what you call "another subject" but I have not received your papers on deductive databases. Unfortunately I cannot discuss here this 'another subject' though I keep it in mind."
06/14/87	Friends	Krimsky	Chair, AAAS Comm. on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility enclosed report, "Scientists in Exile: Issues and Perspectives on the Refugee Experience." No copies found in Minker files.
07/02/87	Hirsch	Minker	Congratulates Dorothy on her award as 1987 recipient of New York Academy of Sciences Award in recognition of services on behalf of the Human Rights of Sciences.
07/09/87	Nixon	Minker	Response to Brian Nixon's letter of 05/26/87 concerning Haim Kilov. Kilov phoned Minker from Boston. Minker made several suggestions to Kilov for jobs and does not know his job status. Nixon, a graduate student at U. Toronto corresponded with Kilov for 2 years. Thanked Minker for work on human rights.
07/10/87	Minker	Newman	Ruth Newman sent a letter to me from Lev Goldfarb concerning his daughter Yulia who made the Spring, 1987, Dean's List at the Univ. of Maryland. Minker and others helped get her admitted to Maryland when she came to the U.S. She did not have her records and she applied after the closing date.
09/02/87	Chile HR	Minker	Inquired of Chilean Human Rights Comm. in London asking for information about Chilean computer scientists. Enclosed copy of 1984 report.
09/02/87	Nicaragua HR	Minker	Similar letter as to 09/02/87 Chilean HR in London.

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09/02/87	Simons	Ralston	Sends material to Barbara Simons on Committee on Scientific Freedom and Human Rights. Barabara is the newly appointed CSFHR Chair. Recommended that the following be retained as CSFHR members: Jack Minker, John Gourlay, Helen Takacs, Dan McCracken, Val Turchin, and should consider including Haim Kilov. Says, 'Jack has done more for scientific freedom and human rights in ACM than any other single person (including me). . . . Since the nature of this data makes it extremely hard to check the accuracy, a single error in all the years he has been doing this can only be an exemplary record.'
09/15/87			Material from 1985 Minker CSFHR for McCarthy re Ershov.
09/16/87	Minker	Hirsch	Dorothy reviewed material sent by Minker and updated the 1984 information re the USSR. Some had emigrated, others had been denied and some were not on the Committee of Concerned Scientists list. Edited material attached with letter.
09/17/87	Minker	Hirsch	An American scientist who recently visited Moscow discovered an individual not on the CCS list. 'Valery Burian, a computer engineer who was refused for reasons of secrecy in 1979. He is one of several refuseniks named in an article in Moscow Pravda of January 30, 1986 and held up to scorn for having received gifts from "zionists." Gift was a pair of running shoes.'
09/22/87	McCarthy	Minker	Hard copy of message sent over the internet a few days earlier. Will send updated list of January 1985 report in a few days. Deleted some and added some new ones. To the best of his ability Minker trusts the sources of the information. In almost every case home address is listed. Regarding McCarthy's discussion with Ersov, Minker suggested 5 individuals who McCarthy might cite as illustrative: Aleksandr Lerner, Tatyana Velikanova, Raold Zelichonek, Leonid Volvovsky and Gregory Rozenshtein. 263 people on the list. Has removed some told they may emigrate. Minker believes all individuals on the list are important. If a priority listing is important, then suggest following order. 1. Release jailed and exiled computer professionals. Give exit visas to those who wish to emigrate and permit others to work in their chosen fields. 2. Exit visas should be given to all the individuals on the list in order of length of time they have been denied. Those with "secret information" should be released if they have been away from classified information for 5 years. 3. Permit those whose jobs have been taken away tho do not wish to emigrate to obtain jobs in their field. Minker concerned with tokenism. Soviets should understand we are interested in the release of all those computer professionals who wish to be released. Minker pleased McCarthy is involved with Ershov. Minker will try to contact Ambassador Richard Schifter who is tid up with a visit by Shevarnadze.

DATE	TO	FROM	DESCRIPTION
09/22/87	Thomas	Minker	John Thomas is in the State Department' Office of Ass't. Sec'y. Human Rights. Minker spoke to Thomas 09/21/87 re initiative by Andre Ershov through John McCarthy to develop better relations with computer scientists in USSR and USA. Minker briefed McCarthy of conversation with Thomas and expects McCarthy to phone Thomas. Enclosed list of approximately 260 USSR computer scientists whose human rights had been violated and comments Minker made to McCarthy over the internet. Ershov told McCarthy he would phone from Italy between Sept. 23-25, 1987 concerning his conversation with Dr. Velikov at USSR Academy of Sciences. McCarthy may decide whether or not he will send Ershov the list should he phone. Minker thanked Thomas for his counsel and will keep him appraised if anything happens. Congratulates him on successful negotiations with the Soviets last week.
09/24/87	Kilov	Minker	Has not written since he was getting settled and looking for a job. He is working for ComuServe Data Tech. makes a relational DBMS. He is trying to influence further developments. Will teach a DB course at Northeastern starting next week 3 hours a week. He plans to use the Korth/Silbershatz book. Thanks Minker for his help in getting him out of the Soviet Union. Hopes to meet Minker soon. He is presenting a paper on his experience in RDBS in the USSR in Falls Church, VA at the end of October.
09/25/87	McCleskey	Minker	Asks for information about computer professionals for Minker update of human rights report. McCleskey is with AAAS Human Rights.
09/29/87	Minker	Ralston	Thanks Minker for e-mail note re SFHR activities. Thinks Minker judged the situation correctly re Abrahams and Harrison, but his information is sketchy and indirect. Believes the Turkish incident led to this. "As I have noted a number of times, the remarkable thing about the work you have done, given the difficulties of getting the information, is that this is the onle error which has been found in it." Urges Minker to hold on and publish an updated version of the list. He believes Simons will act reasonably on this. "I understand that you find this nonesense insulting and demeaning, particularly given the award. But as I know only too well, political bickering is not new to ACM!"
10/07/87	Simons	Ralston	Has written to AAAS to send human rights material to her instead of to him, to no affect. Sending attached copy of letter from Ms. Jane Cave, OSFR AAAS to Minker since he is the obvious person to get this information.
10/07/87	Cave	Ralston	Informs Cave her memo re lunch with Dr. Anatoly Koryagin to him should now go to Barbara Simons, new chair CSFHR.

DATE	TO	FROM	DESCRIPTION
11/13/87	Minker	Gruschow	Responds re Minker letter to McCleskey. Gruschow handles HR cases in Americas. Cases of Ardito and Leikis de Alvarez Rojas in Argentina not resolved. No information on Ademar Vinales, Uruguay. Enclosed cases on 3 mathematicians in Chile. Attaches letter of 03/20/85 to McCleskey from Amb. James D. Theberge, US Embassy, Santiago, Chile. Lists information on human rights in Chile. No computer professionals named in letter. Also letter of 01/20/85 to Dorothy Hirsch from D.B. Harrington responding for the US Amb. to Chile. Lists some cases, but no computer professionals. Also material from Amnesty International on Chile, but no computer professionals listed.
12/01/87	Hirsch	Golub	Efim I. Golub, Yale, Dep't. Medicine writes about violation of human rights of Isaak E. Maizlin, Ph.D. and family who applied to emigrate to Israel 8 1/2 years ago from the USSR. Refused exit visa. Computer expert worked on 1st generation computers in USSR. Work considered secret, but completed 18 years ago and has not worked on secret information since then. Deprived of job and in desperate situation. Lists several publications.
12/01/87	Orrego	Minker	Saw his name in an article by John Walsh 20 Nov. 1987, re Chile. Christian Orrego is in Dep't. Chemistry, UC Berkeley. Asks him if he knows any computer professionals in Chile who have human rights problems.
12/04/87	Minker	Hirsch	Encloses documentation re Isaak Maizlin (Golub letter) for Minker list. Viktor Fulmakht received permission in November 1987 and Alexander Ioffe received permission yesterday—should be removed from list. Bilateral exchange with academy to be discussed at meeting of academies. Paul Plotz ready to lead CCS delegation in dialog with Frank Press in the near future.
12/04/87		NY Times	Article by Felicity Barringer, "60 to 75 Soviet Citizens Get Permission to Leave Country." Aleksandr Ioffe released. Meiman and Lerner not listed. May push number of emigrants toward 8,500. Would be 9 times number for 1986 total of 912.
12/08/87	Minker	Hirsch	Sends information re Lev Sheiba, Leningrad, a computer engineer refused emigration since 1980, due to state secrets. Ph.D. in electrophysics. Not to be included in Minker report since has no apparent relationship to computers and Minker report has a Leonid Sheiba of the same address.
12/08/87	Minker	I. Brailovsky	Irina Brailovsky letter. she was sorry we did not meet on her trip to the US. Sends Victor's CV. Solving a difficult problem of coming back to their professional jobs. Asks for preprints of papers for Victor. Any letters from a colleague and a reference about Victor's research would be welcome.
12/16/87	Colleagues	Ralston	Informs colleagues of campaigns for human rights of Israel Halperin and current campaign for human rights in Chile. Asks people in computing to be listed as supporting his cause. Attaches material from Halperin.

DATE	TO	FROM	DESCRIPTION
12/21/87	Brailovsky	Minker	<p>Delighted to speak with Irina by phone. Too bad her schedule did not permit us to meet. Received the letter Irina wrote me. It was sent by Bob Adelstein. Enclosed are a few papers written by a colleague on pattern recognition of interest to Victor. Irina's letter mentioned a reference about Victor's articles. It was unclear to whom the letter should be sent and the purpose. Willing to write such a letter. but Minker's research is not in Victor's area, and I am uncertain that such a letter from me would be useful. If you do want me to write such a letter, please send recent articles and I will try my best to look them over and possibly write a letter of reference. Minker was impressed by Victor's vitae. Let me know when you will be coming to Washington DC. I would like you both to come to the University of Maryland and lecture on your research and human rights. Warmest greetings and best wishes for life in Israel. It will be better than in the USSR. Attached is Victor Brailovsky's CV.</p>
12/28/87	Minker	Brailovsky	<p>Unfortunate that Irina could not meet me during US visit. Expresses deep gratitude for Minker's help and support during the difficult years. He and Irina are trying to get back to their professions and establish connections with colleagues. Since 1961 he worked with statistical methods of pattern recognition and Functional Approximation by statistical data. Described some work he had done. Would appreciate some advice and references to important publications. Friedlin has his CV. Attached is article from The Scientist, December 14, 1987 by Edward Carr "Soviets Urged to Shorten Life of State Secrets." Discusses the case of Irina and Victor Brailovsky. Yuval Ne'eman, a physicist at Tel Aviv Univ. suggested that the product of a secret's life and the number of people aware of it is approximately a constant – about 100 person years. New military equipment will lose its secrecy value within months of its issue because it is distributed to so many soldiers. A long-term strategic plan known only to a few trusted general could have a life of 10 years. A photo of Victor and Irina Brailovsky after he received an honorary doctorate from Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium in November 1987. The degree was awarded while he was in a Soviet prison.</p>

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12/ /87		CCS	<p>1987 Annual Report of CCS. Detailed report about activities. Chronicled activities in many public places. Organized conferences in support of beleagured colleagues in 14 scientific conferences, made official representations to offending governments in Chile, China, Somalia, Cuba, Yugoslavia, Yemen, Rumania, South Africa, Benin, Poland, Colombia, Malaysia. Maintained contact with U.S. Government in executive and legislative branches. Met with the Secretary of State before the meetings between SEC'y. of State Shultz and Foreign Minister Shevarnadze. Briefed visitors to the USSR. Issued 11 Action Alerts. Collaborated with Professional Societies and Human Rights Groups, including: AAAS, NAS, NYAS, APS, SIAM, ACP, AMS, SN, ASBC, ACM. List many colleagues who left the Soviet Union in 1987 List many colleagues who left the Soviet Union in 1987. Among those who were in the Minker CACM list released were: Irina Brailovsky, Victor Brailovsky, Vladimir Slepak, Nadezdha Fradkova, Haim Kilov, Lev Korsunsky and Tatiana Osipova. Several received permission to leave, but had not yet left: Solomon Alber, Iosif Begun, Alexander Ioffe, Abram Kagan, Aba Taratuta, Vladimir Prestin, Alexander Lerner and Leonid Volvosky.</p>