

INDEX TO: HUMAN RIGHTS BINDER 1989

J. Minker

March 20, 2008

DATE	TO	FROM	DESCRIPTION
01/02/89		NY Times	Letter from Louis Nirenberg, Prof. Math NYU. Doors Open for Only Some Soviet Dissidents. Found article in NY Times that Soviet Union has removed a major barrier to emigration of 50 people falls far short of solving longstanding problem of 4,000 who are still denied. Cites cases of individuals he met in Moscow following the Times article: Uspensky family and Samoilovich.
01/09/89		C&EN	Richard Seltzer article on Soviet Officials Pledge to Solve Problem of Refusenik Scientists. Cites several taken by the Soviets in this regard: declared publicly to alleviate problem; many scientists allowed to leave; announced new rules to deal with "state secrets," allowing emigrants to visit; permitted reduseniks to hold a seminar.
01/09/89	Kocher/Simons	Ralston	Laments fact that ACM did not support international scientific conference in the Soviet Union. States that this is conference ACM has supported in past with letters from the President of the Chair of the CSFHR. Conference held in Moscow without official sanction Dec. 8-10, 1988 as reported by CSFHR News Release, "Ostracized Soviet Scientists Hold Unofficial International Conference," attached to letter. Conf. had been forced to cancel in Sept. 1981. 45 scientists from all over USSR attended lectures by foreign lecturers, including Louis Nirenberg, NYU, Boris Katz (former refusenik), MIT and 18 scientists from U.S., Canada, Israel, England Norway, Sweden and Denmark.
01/16/89		Boston Globe	2 refuseniks: Boris Katz and Bernard Davis voiced fears for refuseniks in USSR.

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01/17/89		CCS	News releases and articles American Math petition for 14 Soviet colleagues: A. Belsky, P. Gamburd, A. Genis V. Meshkov, E. Pinsker, V. Rozental, G. Samollovich, V. Shakhnovsky, L. Strizhevsky, B. Tsirelson, A. Vinnitsky, I. Yanovsky, S. Zeldovich. 02/08/89 News Release 1,600 scientists from all over the world press Gorbachev to make good on promises and clear the decks of refuseniks. 03/27/89 physicists unite in support of colleagues refused emigration at Amer. Physical Soc. meeting 03/20-24/89 in St. Louis, Mo.
01/25/89		Herald Tele.	Indianapolis paper covers Bruce Solomon, Indiana Univ. Ass't. Prof. of mathematics attendance at refusenik conf. in Moscow, December 1988. Discussed entomologist, Igor Uspenskii, who had conducted a two week hunger strike, protesting denial of his son Viacheslav of a visa based on his father's work.
02/23/89		Christ. Sci. Mon.	Article in Christian Science Monitor about refusenik rights by Curtis J. Sitomer. Discusses cases of molecular biologist Vladimir Raiz, entomologists Inna and Igor Uspensky, and physicist Boris Lifschitz, cases chronicled by CCS. Quotes Dorothy Hirsch who concedes "significant progress under Gorgachev, but stresses, however, "no clear evidence of change in immigration law."
02/21/89	Minker	Stewart Pubs.	Letter from Brenda Rouse, Henry Stewart Pubs. re Journal of the Academic Proceedings of Soviet Jewry, V. 2, No. 1 (The Lerner Manuscript). Had couriered the manuscript 22 December 1988 and have not received acknowledgment of its receipt. Asks for prompt response and when I might get to it. I may have phoned Judith Hollingdale of her office on February 28, 1989 at 12:10pm. I have her name the time and date on the letter.
03/22/89		NAS	Announcement from National Acad. Sci. Institute of Medicine confirming the release of 12 scientists, engineers and medical doctors in Somalia. Names are listed. Plea to the Prime Minister of Somalia by Carol Corillon, Frank Press (NAS president), and Francis Low apparently was effective. The Prime Minister promised they would be released soon.
03/30/89	CSFHR	Zichichi	Letter from Arcangela Zichichi, Share Base, Britton Lee, who worked with Paula Hawthorne, Co-chair CSFHR, compared the report distributed to the CSFHR with an earlier draft sent to Paula Hawthorne, found the reports to be virtually the same except for a few minor differences. She enclosed a "fixed" copy of the report which repaired some incomplete sentences. Repaired document, dated 3/30/89 was attached.

DATE	TO	FROM	DESCRIPTION
04/03/89		CCS	Call to action: Refusenik Problem Persists. Hundreds of Soviet Jewish scientists held on secrecy grounds. Discuss cases of I. Uspensky, E. Lurie and V. Raiz. Ask for letters to USSR officials: Gorbachev, Marchuk and Dubnin.
04/ /89	UCSJ Members	Naftalin	Micah H. Naftalin, Dir. UCSJ updates members on situation in Soviet Union based on a recent trip to the USSR. Notes: although some Jews are leaving USSR, no legal assurance re right to emigrate exists. No time limit on "state secrets". Discusses other matters as well.
04/04/89	CCS Board	Hirsch	Activities update and report on Annual Meeting. Contains comments of biochemist Irina Lein and her husband, Yevgeny, mathematician and former prisoner of conscience, who wrote, from Jerusalem, "Without your and Concerned Scientists' support we really would not be here now. If it is possible to thank all our friends thorough you, please do it. We would like our friends to share with us not only our trouble but our happiness too..." Discussed human rights in China, Israel, Malaysia, Rumania, Turkey, South Africa and USSR. Noted the following computer scientists were given exit visas and were on their way to Israel: Eugene Grechanovsky, Yulian Khasin and Roald Zelichonek.
04/ /89	ACM Forum	Ralston/McCracken	Draft letter to Editor of the ACM Forum. Letter was not sent. Protest actions of the entire ACM administration from President down to the Chair of the Committee on Scientific Freedom and Human Rights (CSFHR) regarding their attempt to prevent publication of the "Report on Computer Professionals Whose Scientific Freedom and Human Rights Have Been Violated". Report written by Jack Minker and undersigned are two members (Anthony Ralston and Daniel McCracken). A four page chronolgy of events is described and, if the current rebalot is not approved, the following Question of Importance will be brought to collect 600 signatures to compel the Council to submit the following "Resolved that the duly approved fourth Minker report be submitted forthwith for publication in <u>Communications</u> ." (4 page letter)
04/21/89	Denning	Minker	Submits report, "Scientific Freedom and Human Rights of Computer Professionals – 1989," for publication to the EiC of the CACM. Report approved for publication by CSFHR. Notes report contains a dissent and a response to the dissent and the entire package should be published together. Says, report was approved about 8 months earlier and was held up since then. Would appreciate expedited publication.

DATE	TO	FROM	DESCRIPTION
05/04/89	Rouse	Minker	Encloses proofed galley proofs by Minker and Soyfer for Lerner Festschrift. Includes "1989 Editor's Remarks" by Soyfer.
06/04/89	Minker	Lerner	"Please accept my deep gratitude for your activity concerning the preparation of the book dedicated to my 70th birthday. I fully realize how much of your time and energy have you sacrificed to implement this project. The only thought brings peace to my conscience: that this book will be meaningful not only for me and my friends, but also for those scientists in the U.S.S.R. who still need support from abroad."
06/15/89		Diamondback	Campus to hold memorial service for Chinese students killed. Computer science Prof. Jack Minker, who helped organize the memorial service, said he is interested in human rights for all people. Minker said, "University support is crucial. Where else but a university is the idea of freedom to be brought up?"
06/28/89	Board	Hirsch	Reports stunning developments in Eastern bloc that augur well. Cites USSR release of political prisoners. Poland improved. Hungary honored memory of Prime Minister Imre Nagy hanged for heading uprising in 1956. Little hope for improvements in China. Active on behalf of Tunisian and Malawian. Computer scientists emigrated to Israel: Vladimir Meshkov. Attaches letter by Louis Nirenberg in Notices AMS re participation in Dec. 1988 refusenik "Frontiers of Science" in Moscow, dated Feb. 16, 1989. He underscored persting refusenik problem.
06/29/89	Lambert	Minker	Encloses corrected galley copies "Scientific Freedom and Human Rights of Computer Professionals - 1989," scheduled for August 1989 in the CACM.
06/29/89	Bell	Minker	Responds to Bill Bell's letter of 06/08/89 (attached) about Haim Kilov. Sends Kilov's address, now in the U.S.
07/14/89	Minker	Mfume	Congressman thanks Minker for concern and support for Chinese nationalists and students currently in U.S.
07/21/89	Simons	Minker	Submits his resignation from CSFHR now that fourth human rights report is completed. States, "Thanks for all of your help and support. Without you and Dan there would have been no fourth report. In a time of deep stress for me, you and Dan took the burdens off my shoulders. It has been a great pleasure to work with you on the CSFHR these many years."
07/21/89	Simons	Minker	Identical letter as above. Note to McCracken. "I greatly appreciate the support that I received from you in developing the fourth report on human rights. You and Tony took the pressure off of me in a time of deep stress in my life. Last year was the darkest period in my life. Without you and Tony the report may never have been approved. It has been a great pleasure to have been able to work with you. Not only were you a great friend and committed person, but your book on Fortran helped Rita get back into the field."

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07/25/89	Minker	Hoyer	Thanks Minker for expressing opposition to China's brutal suppression of democracy in Tienamen square.
07/31/89	Minker	McMillen	Shares Minker's concern regarding extension of J1 visas to Chinese students in U.S.
08/01/89	Minker	Zhang	Xiaochuan Zhang, Pres. Assoc. of Chinese Students and Scholars, UMD. Thanks Minker for his support of H.R. 2712 by Nancy Pelosi and concern to other congressmen.
08/08/89	Ashenhurst	Chomicki	Letter appeared in CACM. Strong support for Minker human rights report. Cites how the report helped him when he was in Poland. "It is extraordinary that the enormous task of gathering, confirming, compiling and regularly publishing extensive data about abuses of human rights of computer professionals has been performed since its inception 10 years ago by a single person, Jack Minker. I am personally grateful for his unyielding efforts and I would like to commend him very highly for this unique service to the world computer science community.
08/10/89	Minker	Kushkuley	Alexander and Larissa read fourth human rights report and "we are happy to tell you that the information about our family which you received from Haim Kilov is now completely obsolete. We left the USSR a year ago. Your and your colleagues position on human rights was undoubtedly taken into account by the Soviet authorities when they suddenly "changed their mind." They said, "In any case we wish to express our deep gratitude for your help and for your efforts to distinguish between right and wrong despite so many attempts to undermine basic notions of truth and justice."
08/14/89	Minker	Kilov	"Thanks again for your Report. It does show that not everything is great at the times of 'perestroika.' Please feel free to use it in any manner you wish. Some good news: Alexander Kushkuli received permission to emigrate and are now in Boston. Alexander works for Digital." Attaches letter of 8/13/89 to Ashenhurst. Strong letter in support of Minker report published in CACM. Handwritten letter to Kilov on back of envelope thanks him for his letter to Ashenhurst and says it was a very good letter. received letter from Kushkuleys. Encloses obituary for Rita, who he had met on a visit to Maryland.
08/14/89	Minker	Veklerov	Informs him that report had error regarding Larissa V. Kopchenova. Is not aware of any continuing violation of her rights.
08/17/89	Minker	Mikulski	Thanks him for support for legislation to permit Chinese students to stay in U.S. until it is safe to return to China. Attaches letters she and other U.S. Senators sent to Honorable Li Peng Zongli; Honorable James A. Baker, III (about intimidation of by Chinese embassy officials in NY, Houston and San Francisco, intimidating Chinese students in the U.S.A.; and to Amb. Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of China to the U.S. about intimidation of Chinese students in the U.S.

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10/10/89	Hirsch	Minker	Sends 12 copies of fourth ACM report to be sent to people whose names are still on list. Thanks her for help with report.
10/13/89	Hannibal	Minker	Sends copy of fourth ACM report on human rights and brings her attention to the dissent with the report. Dissenters made a major issue of the error regarding the turks reported upon in the 1985 report based on information that came from the AAAS. Asks if she would write a letter to the ACM re the accuracy of the of the information in the current and previous report. Thanks her and her associates at AAAS Jane Cave and Janet Gruchow who provided me with information. Informs her he has resigned from CSFHR. Brings her attention to preface to report by CSFHR Chair, Barbara Simons and says, "Needless to say, the preface does not reflect my views."
12/11/89	Minker	Goldszmidt	Disagrees with Minker decision re Salah. Asks for Minker's for the decision and and states: "I will like to endorse Mr. Fischer's recommendation, and respectfully ask you to provide an official apology to the people of Israel." signed German Goldszmidt of IBM Research Center."
12/12/89	Minker	Lerner	Thanks Minker for letter of 10/23/89. Read fourth report on human rights and related comments with considerable interest. He completely shares my opinion re dissent which he believes is unjustified, and sent a letter to Ashenhurst (copy attached, but not in the Minker collection - appears in an issue of the CACM. Delighted Minker is planning to visit Israel and "My whole family would be glad to meet you and use this occasion in order to tell you, how happy we are in Israel and how grateful we are for your noble efforts during our long captivity in the U.S.S.R.."
12/28/89	Ashenhurst	Ralston	Attaches letter to Forum from McCracken and Ralstom (apparently re Fischer letter. Notes, "that I think it is too bad that you published Fischer's letter without giving Jack a chance to reply in the same issue. Maybe you wer right to publish the letter but Jack deserved the chance to answer such unfair criticism immediately.