

# **A Chronicle of Current Events**

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Universal Declaration of  
Human Rights, Article 19

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## Political Trials

### *The Trial of V. Dremlyuga*

*Yakutian Autonomous Republic [NE Siberia].* The trial of Vladimir Dremlyuga, indicted for a second time under article 190-1 [of the Russian Criminal Code], took place in late August at an assize session of the Yakutian Supreme Court in the town of Lensk, on penal institution territory. The court sentenced Dremlyuga to three years of strict-regime camps. Defence counsel Kulginsky (of Yakutsk), who had been engaged by relatives of the accused, was not present at the trial; another lawyer (whose name is unknown) was sent in his place. An attempt to engage a lawyer in Moscow had met with no success, as permission for this had been refused by the Moscow Collegium of Lawyers (for details see *Chronicle* No. 20). 25 August marked the end of the three-year term in the camps to which Dremlyuga was sentenced for taking part in the demonstration in Red Square (1968).<sup>1</sup> During these three years he has received only one parcel and a few letters. His mother, an aged invalid, has been unable to make the journey to visit him, while contacts with friends have been blocked by the camp administration. According to unconfirmed reports, about forty witnesses—all fellow prisoners of Dremlyuga—were called at the trial, and testified that he had expressed "slandorous fabrications".

### *The Trial of D. Mikheyev and F. de Perrégaux*

*Moscow.* The trial of Dmitry Mikheyev and François de Perrégaux (a citizen of Switzerland) took place in public on the premises of the Moscow City Court on 17-23 August (for the arrests and investigations see *Chronicle* Nos. 16, 18). The investigator was KGB Major Fochenkov.

The chairman of the court was [V. V.] Bogdanov, the prosecutor—Procurator Vasilev, counsel for Mikheyev—

[1. On the demonstration and trial see N. Gorbanevskaya's book *Polden* (Possev-Verlag, Frankfurt, 1969), due to be published in English in January 1972 by Deutsch as *Red Square at Noon*.]

[Leonid] Popov, for de Perrégaux—[Nikolai] Borovik.<sup>2</sup>

Those present in court included, besides the "regular audience" [i.e. plain-clothes police], Mikheyev's mother and female cousin, de Perrégaux's father, two or three representatives of the Swiss embassy, member of the Committee for Human Rights A. D. Sakharov, and representatives of the Physics Faculty and the administration of Moscow University. A 32-millimetre cine-camera and a videotape-recorder were installed in the court-room.

D. F. Mikheyev (born 1941, a post-graduate student at the Physics Faculty of Moscow University and vice-president of the Physicists' International Discussion Club) was charged under articles 64 (via 15), 70, 83 and 196 of the Russian Criminal Code; de Perrégaux (born 1937, a biologist)—under article 64 (via 17).

The indictment against Mikheyev made the following charges:

(1) that in consequence of his anti-Soviet beliefs and with treacherous aims, including engaging in anti-Soviet propaganda, he attempted to carry out an escape across the border, in connection with which he twice travelled to the area of the Soviet-Finnish frontier for purposes of reconnaissance, and received a map of this area by diplomatic mail from his friend Anika Bäckström in Sweden;

(2) that after his escape he intended to request political asylum, issue anti-Soviet statements, and engage in anti-Soviet propaganda activity;

(3) that through the Austrian exchange-student Karl-Joseph Vogelmann he attempted to send abroad by diplomatic mail a packet containing personal articles, 165 dollars, his diaries, and manuscripts of slanderous content called "How to fool the people" and "Empire of lies";

(4) that he was the author of the slanderous work "How to fool the people", which he typed in four copies and gave to his friends Ovchinnikov, the Shakhnazarovs, the Velikanovs and others to read; that he made slanderous statements verbally (about the level of democracy in the USSR, the lack of freedom of information and of the pre-conditions for free creative work; about the sending of troops into

Czechoslovakia, and about the mass repression which he claimed would take place if there were to be a war with China, and so on);

(5) that he duplicated and circulated books by [the philosopher] Berdyayev, *The Technology of Power* by Avtorkhanov<sup>3</sup> and the "Programme of the Democrats of Russia, the Ukraine, Belorussia and the Baltic";<sup>4</sup>

(6) that he exchanged Soviet currency in a number of illegal operations, using false documents and a false signature, and that he practised forging the signature;

(7) that he attempted to leave the USSR by using the passport and aeroplane ticket of the Swiss national de Perrégaux.

De Perrégaux was charged with coming to the USSR with the object of helping Mikheyev to leave the country, for which purpose he had given the latter his passport and his ticket for an aeroplane bound for Austria.

When questioned, Mikheyev testified that when he was a student at Moscow University he had shared a room with foreign students, made friends with many of them, and discussed with them various questions of the internal affairs of the USSR. Attempting to develop independence of thought, he had analysed the state of affairs in the country and gradually evolved one-sided views on events taking place, making an incorrect appraisal of Soviet reality. His views had now altered, for which he was grateful to the officials of the KGB. When dreaming of going abroad he had intended to live a modest life there as a secondary-school teacher, not engaging in politics. He had not realised at the time that those who were helping him to carry out his escape would not leave him in peace.

De Perrégaux testified that he had been aware that the reasons for Mikheyev's escape were political, but he knew little of such matters, as he was not interested in politics. He had agreed to help Mikheyev because he wished to visit Moscow. He had not taken money for helping, but had helped out of humanitarian considerations.

#### *Questioning of witnesses*

Kisin refused to answer a question as to what Mikheyev

[2. Borovik has been provided by the Soviet authorities to defend several other foreigners in political cases, e.g. the Englishman Gerald Brooke in 1965.]

[3. I.e. A. Avtorkhanov, *Tekhnologiya vlasti*, Frankfurt, 1959.]

[4. I.e. *Programma Demokraticeskogo Dvizheniya Sovetskogo Soyuzu*, Amsterdam, 1970.]

had given him to read (Kisin was due to defend his dissertation on 3 March 1971, but this was cancelled, and the notice announcing it withdrawn from the newspaper *Evening Moscow*, since information had reached the relevant authority that Kisin was "insincere in his testimony in the investigation of Mikheyev's case").

Vyacheslav Velikanov and his wife Olga Velikanova denied knowing in advance that Mikheyev had conceived a plan to flee the country (Olga Velikanova, a piano-teacher at the Moscow Conservatory, had already been expelled from the party before the beginning of the trial).

Fon Sekki, assessing Mikheyev's character in positive terms, told of how Mikheyev, after changing roubles for dollars, had given part of the dollars to Nedbailo, a poverty-stricken artist.

The Procurator, whose speech lasted 40 minutes, did little but repeat the indictment. Taking into account the youth of the defendants and their assistance in the investigation, he requested the following sentences: for Mikheyev—one year under article 196 (forgery of documents), three years under article 88 (illegal currency operations), five years under article 70, ten years under article 64 (betrayal of the fatherland) via 15, all taken together: ten years. For de Perrégaux—three years under article 64 via 17 (complicity).

Popov, counsel for Mikheyev, drew the court's attention to the fact that his client, having heard the Procurator's address, was smiling. This was evidence of his spiritual recovery. Under the influence of a hostile environment the defendant had assimilated ideas of formal democracy, whereas we knew democracy to be a class concept. Counsel maintained that his client did not have the particular aim of undermining or weakening Soviet authority (the existence of such an aim is required by articles 64 and 70). His statements came within the scope of article 190-1 of the Criminal Code, not of article 70 (at other trials similar statements about the sending of troops into Czechoslovakia had been classified under article 190-1). Counsel asked the court to change article 70 in the indictment to article 190-1, and to show the defendant mercy.

Borovik, counsel for de Perrégaux, described his client's personality—his political naiveté, his kind-heartedness, his

inability to refuse a request made by a friend—and asked the court to limit his punishment to the period he had spent in pre-trial detention.

The court sentenced Mikheyev to eight years of strict-regime corrective-labour camps (with the application of article 43 of the Russian Criminal Code—a sentence less than the minimum as reward for assistance in the investigation and for sincere remorse), and de Perrégaux to three years.

Long articles about the trial have appeared in the Soviet press: in *Ogonyok* Nos. 34-36 [in fact: 35-37] ("The voyage of François de Perrégaux" by L. Lerov, V. Pavlov and Yu. Chernyavsky) and in *Komsomolskaya pravda* of 25 and 27 August 1971 ("An exchange of butterflies" by V. Ignatenko and N. Kolesnikov).

#### The Dnepropetrovsk [SE Ukraine] Psychiatric Hospital of Special Type

This "Psychiatric Hospital of Special Type" (postal address: Dnepropetrovsk-6, p/ya YaE-308) was established in 1965-6. The hospital occupies the premises of a former prison. The regime is approximately the same as that of similar institutions in Kazan and Leningrad. The hospital consists of at least ten sections. The number of patients is about 900. They were almost all sent there by court orders prescribing compulsory treatment. Politicals are held in the same cells as criminals. By mid-1969 the cell-wards were full to overflowing. In section ten the most lightly-populated cells contained eleven or twelve persons, the remainder—as many as 30.

The absence of obvious or even faint symptoms of the illness indicated in the [pre-trial] report of the diagnostic team which accompanies the patient does not spare him from the most effective "therapy". A course of twenty injections of sulphazin [a 1% sterile solution of purified sulphur in peach oil] is a widely-practised method; it is administered according to a curve rising from one c.c. to ten c.c., then falling back to one c.c.

It is known about nine inmates of the Dnepropetrovsk hospital that they were placed there as a result of political

cases. Our information about these people is inexact and incomplete. The names of some of them are known: Vitokhin, Shvedov, Fedosov, Morkovnikov, Maltsev and Palchevsky.

**Open Letter from A. I. Solzhenitsyn to Andropov, USSR Minister of State Security**

"For many years I have borne the lawless acts of your officials in silence: the inspection of all my mail by x-ray techniques, the confiscation of half of it, the tracking down of my correspondents, the persecution of them at work and by administrative organs, the spying around my house, the following of visitors, the tapping of telephone conversations, the drilling of holes in my ceiling, the installation of recording apparatus in my town flat and at my country cottage, and the continuous slanderous campaign waged against me from lecture-platforms whenever these are placed at the disposal of officials of your ministry."

"But after yesterday's raid I shall keep silent no longer. My country cottage (in the village of Rozhdestvo in the Naro-Fominsk District) was standing empty, and the eavesdroppers presumed that I was away. However, having returned to Moscow because of a sudden illness, I asked my friend Alexander Gorlov to go to my country cottage to fetch a motor-car part. But the lock on the door of the cottage was missing, and voices could be heard from inside. Gorlov entered and demanded the raiders' documents. In the small building, hardly large enough for three or four people to turn round, there proved to be as many as ten of them, dressed in plain clothes. At the command of their leader: 'To the woods with him! And shut his mouth!', they twisted Gorlov's arms behind his back, knocked him off his feet, dragged him into the wood with his face to the ground and began to beat him cruelly. Meanwhile the others were hurriedly running back to their cars by an indirect route through the bushes, taking with them parcels, papers and other articles (possibly some of the equipment

they had brought with them). But Gorlov resisted vigorously and shouted for witnesses. In answer to his cry, neighbours from the other cottages ran up, barred the raiders' path to the highway, and demanded their documents. At this one of the raiders showed a red identification card, and the neighbours made way for them. Gorlov, his face disfigured and his suit in tatters, was led to one of the cars. 'I like your fine methods!' he said to his escorts. 'We're on an ASSIGNMENT,' they replied, 'and on an assignment everything is permitted.'

"The man who had shown the neighbours his identification, according to which he was a Captain, and who himself gave his name as Ivanov, first took Gorlov to the Naro-Fominsk police, where the local officials greeted 'Ivanov' with respect. There 'Ivanov' demanded an explanatory statement from Gorlov about what had occurred (!). Although badly beaten up, Gorlov set out in writing the object of his visit and all the circumstances. After this the raiders' leader demanded an undertaking from Gorlov NOT TO DIVULGE the incident. Gorlov refused point-blank. They then drove to Moscow. On the way the raiders' leader tried to prevail upon Gorlov in exactly the following terms: 'If Solzhenitsyn ever finds out what happened at his *dacha*, it'll be all up with you. Your career (Gorlov is a Master of Technological Sciences, has submitted his doctoral dissertation, and works at Giprotis [the USSR State Institute for Experimental Pattern Design and Technical Research]) will come to a full stop, and you won't be defending any dissertation. It'll affect your family, your children, and if need be - we'll PUT YOU IN JAIL.'

"Those who know how we live know that these threats can be carried out in full. But Gorlov did not give in to them; he refused to give any undertaking, and now he is in imminent danger of reprisal.

"I demand from you, citizen minister, public identification of all the raiders, their punishment according to criminal law, and a public explanation of this incident. Otherwise I shall be forced to conclude that they were sent by yourself. 13 August 1971 A. Solzhenitsyn"

"To the Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, A. N. Kosygin.

"I am sending you a copy of my letter to the Minister of

[5. For background see Leopold Labedz, *Solzhenitsyn: A Documentary Record*, London, 1970, 2nd (expanded) edition, New York, 1971.]

State Security. I consider him to be personally responsible for all the lawless acts listed in it. If the government of the USSR does not endorse these actions of Minister Andropov, I await an investigation.  
13 August 1971

A. Solzhenitsyn"

\* \* \*

During the days which followed Gorlov was several times summoned to the KGB for interview. KGB representatives stated that their organisation had had nothing to do with the incident, attributing responsibility for the entire affair to the local police. The Naro-Fominsk chief of police apologised to Gorlov in person, saying that the police officials had mistakenly taken him to be a burglar, while guarding Solzhenitsyn's house. The police-chief assured Gorlov that the guilty officials had been punished. [For more detail see the report in *The Guardian* and the *Los Angeles Times*, 9 September 1971.]

#### Materials of the Committee for Human Rights

To the Supreme Court of the RSFSR [i.e. the Russian Republic]

#### Concerning the strange trial in Sverdlovsk

We have familiarised ourselves with reports and a transcript of the trial of V. Kukui (Sverdlovsk, 15-16 June 1971 [see *Chronicles* 19 and 20]), who was charged with the circulation of deliberately false information libelling the Soviet social and political system. We believe the information we have received to be accurate, and regard it as expedient to inform the Supreme Court of several extremely strange details, suspecting that because of their very singularity they did not find due reflection in the official protocol.

The fact that during the court examination an unusually wide range of topics was scrutinized is in itself strange. Such questions as the following were put to witnesses:

to witness Prutkin—"Have you experienced persecution for being a Jew?"

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to witness Markman: "What did Kukui say about the Russian language and Russian literature?" "Why did you (i.e. Markman) submit an application to emigrate to Israel?"

These questions, and others having no relevance to the substance of the indictment, are of course most interesting, but it is doubtful whether a thorough study of them could have been made, without detriment to the examination of the case, in the two days the hearing lasted.

It is strange that the court was indifferent to the fact that the witnesses directly accused the [pre-trial] investigator of having created an atmosphere during questioning such that they, the witnesses, had been compelled to give testimony to the investigator's liking. All the witnesses who appeared at the trial repudiated, directly or indirectly, the testimony they had given during the pre-trial investigation. The court simply took the view that they had altered their testimony in order to mitigate the fate of the accused, and it took this view at the Procurator's instigation without examining the question.

Only one witness enjoyed the complete trust of the Procurator and the court: V. Kukui's brother Anatoly. In the words of the Procurator, this witness was a member of the communist party and had recently been awarded a Jubilee Medal, and it was therefore doubtful whether such a man would give false testimony. This was obvious discrimination based on party membership and on the possession of medals: it is clear that everyone, irrespective of party membership and medals, has the right to a court's trust, until the opposite has been *proved*. In this particular case, such discrimination against witnesses led to the conviction of Valery Kukui solely, in fact, on the basis of the testimony (read out in court) of his brother [who was absent].

The classification of materials alleged to have been circulated by V. Kukui is also strange. Thus the prosecutor stated that he had superficially familiarised himself with the story *Heart of a Dog* [by Mikhail Bulgakov], but that this was enough for him to appraise it as anti-Soviet. The Procurator then quoted a passage from the story in support of his appraisal—the words: "I'd like to grab him by his calloused proletarian foot". The law does not state that the prosecutor's superficial acquaintance with the materials of a case is sufficient to constitute grounds for a successful

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appeal, and so it now depends on the Supreme Court whether Bulgakov will once again [as under Stalin] be judged to be anti-Soviet.

The atmosphere of strangeness even affected counsel for the defence: after substantiating his conclusion that there was nothing in the actions of V. Kukui which constituted a crime, he asks the court . . . to lighten the sentence.

We hope that the sentence in which this strange trial culminated will not come into legal force thanks to the attentive intervention of the Supreme Court.

A. Sakharov, V. Chalidze 16 July 1971

\* \* \*

To the members of the USSR Supreme Soviet  
*Request for a pardon*

A. E. Levitin (Krasnov), the well-known writer on church affairs, has been convicted [see *Chronicle* 20]. He has propagated his beliefs and defended people's right to believe in God and to perform religious ceremonies.

Let there be one less sufferer for his beliefs—this depends on you.

12 August 1971.

V. Chalidze A. Tverdokhlebov  
A. D. Sakharov I. R. Shafarevich  
A Volpin

\* \* \*

#### *Press statement*

During the first half of 1971 the Committee for Human Rights in Moscow studied a number of documents on the problem of the rights of persons who have been adjudged mentally ill, namely a report by R. A. Medvedev<sup>6</sup> and the opinions of A. S. Volpin<sup>7</sup> and V. N. Chalidze.<sup>8</sup>

[6. For his and Zhores Medvedev's views see also their book *A Question of Madness*, London, 1971. Russian edition: *Kto sumasshedshii?*, Macmillan, London, 1971.]

[7. For his views see also his open letter in *Kaznimye sumasshestviem*, Frankfurt, 1971, pp. 348-65.]

[8. See also *ibid.*, pp. 416-27.]

The Committee considers that there is an urgent need for improvement of the law and practice regarding the extent to which the rights of such persons can be restricted and the procedure for doing so, "so that the rights of a man, however unhealthy his condition and however mentally defective he may be, should not be restricted, except in accordance with the law governing cases where this is necessary for the defence of his fundamental rights, for the defence of the rights of other persons and for the protection of the public."

The Committee considers that the norms governing the procedure for such restriction must take constructive account of the vagueness of the concept of mental illness.

The Committee has carefully studied the well-known public documents about the situation of persons who have been judged to be mentally ill, and is confident of their reliability.

The Committee has noted that the imperfect guarantees of the rights of the mentally ill create a danger of violations of Human Rights being committed with the object of discrediting unorthodox scientific, social, political and philosophical ideas by judging the originators of those ideas to be mentally ill.

The Committee has approached a number of government bodies, calling on them to help in improving the guarantees of the rights of persons who have been judged to be mentally ill.

The Committee has approved an appeal to the Fifth World Congress of Psychiatrists<sup>9</sup> (due to take place in autumn 1971 [28 November - 4 December] in Mexico), in which it calls upon psychiatrists to promote the drawing-up of international legal guarantees for the mentally ill.

The documents of the Committee referred to above are published in issue No. 11 of the journal "Social Problems", 10 September 1971.

V. Chalidze, founder-member of the Committee for Human Rights.

[9. See text in *The Times*, London, 23 October 1971.]

### The Investigation into the Case of V. Bukovsky

On Bukovsky's arrest see *Chronicle* No. 19.

On 29 June N. I. Bukovskaya submitted a protest to R. A. Rudenko, Procurator-General of the USSR, against the violation of the right to a defence in the case of her son V. Bukovsky: the violation consisted in the unexplained refusal of the Moscow City Procurator to admit a defence counsel to the case at the stage of pre-trial investigation. According to the Decree of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet of 1 August 1970, defence counsel may be admitted at this stage if the case is especially complex (the Procurator's approval is needed for this).

The especial complexity of V. Bukovsky's case is indicated by the fact that the term of pre-trial detention in custody has twice been extended during the period of the investigation. "The Procurator is entitled not to give permission," writes N. I. Bukovskaya, "but he must, I presume, give his reasons, in accordance with the general principles of administrative law."

\* \* \*

On 3 August officials of the Moscow Regional KGB carried out searches at the homes of Irina Belogorodskaya (at two flats—where she lives and where she is registered), Lyudmila Alekseyeva, Elena Stroyeva and Vladimir Gusarov (in his absence—his former wife was invited to be present at the search). During the searches note-books, personal correspondence and tape-recordings of songs were confiscated. The searches were carried out in connection with cases No. 365 and 350 (It is known that case No. 350 is that of V. Kozharinov—see *Chronicle* 19). After the searches all the persons involved were taken away for questioning. The husbands of Belogorodskaya and Alekseyeva were also questioned, as was a friend of Alekseyeva who was in her flat at the time of the search. The investigators refused to explain what case No. 365 was about. It can be supposed that this is the case of V. Bukovsky. Questioning was conducted by Moscow KGB investigators Bardin and [V. I.] Korkach.

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At the end of August or the beginning of September Vladimir Bukovsky was sent to the Serbsky Institute for an in-patient forensic-psychiatric examination.<sup>10</sup>

### The Jewish Movement to Leave for Israel

Moscow. On 12 July a group of Jews from Georgia went to the Reception Room of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, where they handed in a collective statement demanding visas to leave for Israel. At five p.m., after waiting all day in vain for an answer, they went to the Central Telegraph Office, where they announced a hunger-strike. They sent telegrams to the Soviet leaders, informing them that they would not end the hunger-strike until they were given permission to leave the country.<sup>11</sup>

Throughout the entire hunger-strike they did not leave the premises of the Telegraph Office. On the second and third days they were joined by several people from Georgia and Moscow, bringing the total number of hunger-strikers to 44. On the second day of the strike they were asked by police officers to leave the premises of the Telegraph Office, but they refused to do so. At three a.m. on 15 July more than a hundred policemen entered the building and arrested all the participants in the hunger-strike, as well as several Moscow Jews who were also present. The detainees were taken to sobering-up station No. 9 (near the *Voikovskaya* underground station), where they were questioned on a charge of violating public order. At mid-day on 15 July those who lived in Moscow were released, after being warned that in future their punishment would be more severe. The Georgian Jews were taken to the railway station, placed in a special carriage under guard and despatched to Tbilisi, where they were released.

\* \* \*

[10. See the texts of two appeals for him not to be ruled insane against all the evidence in *Possev* 10, 1971. Extracts from his mother's appeal appeared in U.P.I. and A.P. dispatches of 3 October, and extracts from the other, signed by 47 of his friends, in *The Times*, 6 October 1971.]

[11. See also a U.P.I. dispatch of 12 July.]

At mid-day on 29 July officials of the KGB and of the ordinary police detained a group of Jews in the Reception Room of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs [MVD], where they had presented themselves in order to be received by Verein, head of the MVD OVIR [Department of Visas and Registrations]. The twenty detainees were taken to sobering-up station No. 9, where they were questioned by KGB officials, one of whom was I. M. Sazonov. During questioning they were threatened with criminal prosecution and with being placed in psychiatric hospitals. At 5.15 p.m. they were released.

\* \* \*

On 27 July eleven Jews from Lithuania presented themselves at the Reception Room of the MVD. They insisted on being received by N. A. Shchelokov, Minister of Internal Affairs, or by one of his deputies. At the time of the hunger demonstration staged by Lithuanian Jews at the Moscow Telegraph Office in June [see Chronicle 20, pp. 249-50], they had been promised that their request to leave for Israel would be met. Receiving no answer from the Lithuanian MVD, they had again travelled to Moscow. After spending the entire day at the Reception Room without receiving a satisfactory reply, they announced on the following day, 28 July, a six-hour standing protest demonstration at the entrance to the Press Centre of the Seventh International Film Festival. The demonstrators remained there from mid-day until six p.m. Despite the presence of reinforced detachments of vigilantes and police in the square where the demonstrators were standing, none of them were detained.

\* \* \*

Nineteen years ago, on 12 August 1952, the Jewish writers Perets Markish, David Bergelson, Leib Kvitko and David Gofshtein, together with other members of the Presidium of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee, were shot. On the anniversary of the executions Perets Markish's widow Esther Perets-Lazebnikova and his son David Markish staged a demonstration at the entrance of the Reception Room of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet "to

honour the memory of our husband and father, and also as a protest at the refusal to give us permission to emigrate to Israel, our historic Motherland", as they stated in a letter addressed to N. V. Podgorny. The demonstrators remained where they were from ten a.m. until six p.m., with yellow six-pointed stars attached to their clothing. The police made two attempts to drive the demonstrators away from the premises of the Reception Room, but they declared that they would yield only to force. The police did not resort to this method.<sup>12</sup>

\* \* \*

*Tbilisi.* Some time after the forcible removal of the group of Georgian Jews from Moscow, they and other Jews in Tbilisi three times visited the Georgian OVIR. Receiving no positive answer, 300 persons went to the premises of the Central Committee [of the Georgian communist party]. A hundred of them went inside, but the remainder were barred from doing so by police who had appeared on the scene. After a long wait the Georgian Minister of Internal Affairs, several members of the Central Committee and the head of OVIR came out to see those present in the building. It was decided by mutual agreement that the Georgian OVIR would arrange for the emigration of fifteen families per week, the order of priority to be determined according to the time when applications to emigrate had been submitted. A list of 530 families awaiting permission to emigrate was in the possession both of OVIR and of a public commission composed of representatives of the citizens who had submitted applications to emigrate. The agreement is so far being observed. By 1 September the 80th family had been given permission.<sup>13</sup>

*Kiev.* On 1 August eleven Soviet citizens, who had received unexplained refusals of their request for permission to emigrate to Israel, arrived at Baby Yar [a ravine near Kiev where large numbers of Soviet Jews were exterminated by the Germans during the Occupation] to hold a hunger

[12. For more details on this case see *The Observer*, 22 August, and *The Guardian*, 13 August, where Mrs. Markish's appeal to Jewish writers is quoted.]

[13. For more details see the *Daily Telegraph*, 6 and 9 July, and *The Times*, 28 September 1971.]

demonstration of protest at the memorial to the victims. They sat on flag-stones around the grave-stone. Officials of the Shevchenko District police, using force, despatched all the participants in the sitting demonstration to the police station. On the following day they were tried for violating public order. The judge, Senatorova, established the fact of violation on the basis of testimony by police officials, who stated that those in custody had damaged flowers and trampled down the grass around the memorial to the victims of fascism. Ten persons were sentenced to fifteen days' imprisonment and one was fined ten roubles. The victims addressed a complaint to the judicial organs of the Ukrainian Republic about their illegal detention and their humiliating treatment in prison (searches at which they were stripped naked, abuse, harder work than that of other prisoners and so on). Their complaint was supported by nine persons who had come to Baby Yar to lay flowers at the memorial and had witnessed the incident.<sup>14</sup>

*Riga.* On 3 September Vatslav Palchevsky, a pensioner aged 67, beat up his neighbour—the father [Abraham] of Joseph Mendelevich, who was convicted in the case of the "aeroplane people" (see *Chronicle* No. 17), shouting: "You'll never see your Israel, I'll show you your motherland". His victim was taken by ambulance to hospital, where he was given stitches for three head wounds, each seven centimetres in length. The cranium was injured.<sup>15</sup>

After statements to the police by relatives of the victim, Palchevsky was placed in a psychiatric hospital for examination.

On the day after the attack, Riga Jews resolved to assemble at the Rumbol cemetery, at the memorial to the victims of fascism, to express their indignation at the act of the anti-Semite. But they were not allowed into the cemetery—there were troops there. It was explained to those who had come to attend the rally that the troops were carrying out exercises, and the entrance was therefore closed. The exercises ended as soon as those assembled had dispersed.

[14. See also an A.P. dispatch of 11 August 1971.]

[15. See also letter by C. Shindler in *The Times*, 17 September 1971.]

# *Reactions to the Trial of V. Kukui* (see *Chronicle* No. 20)

*Sverdlovsk.* Relatives and friends of V. Kukui who appeared as witnesses at his trial have issued a statement about that trial. They describe it as "yet another link in the long chain of repression and persecutions which, in violation of all Soviet laws and of the international obligations assumed by the government of the USSR, have descended upon persons expressing the desire to emigrate to their spiritual and historical motherland, Israel". During the investigation searches were carried out at the homes of all Sverdlovsk Jews who had submitted applications to emigrate to Israel. "All materials in which the words 'Israel' and 'Jew' were used in contexts different from those in which they appear in the journals *Agitator's notebook* and *Ogonyok*" were confiscated, "even the book *Against the Anti-Semites* [*Protiv antisemitov*] by Gorev, published in the USSR in 1927, which is a panegyric to Soviet nationalities policy."

The newspaper *Urals Worker*—an organ of the Sverdlovsk Regional Party Committee—had printed articles about the trial which had in essence been "an attempt to influence public opinion and a directive to the organs of investigation and justice dealing with Kukui's case".

On the subject of the questioning of witnesses at the trial, the authors of the statement ask the question: "Surely the time when men were tried for their opinions has not returned?" . . . "We demand an end to all persecution of Jews who do not wish to link their fate with the places where they were born or where they live, but who desire to emigrate to their motherland, to Israel. We demand guarantees that our legal national rights will be implemented, above all the right to national self-determination."

The statement is signed by Ella Kukui, Vladimir Aks, Ilya Voitovetsky, Yuly Kosharovskiy and Vladimir Markman.

*Kiev.* Six residents of Kiev have submitted a statement to the RSFSR Supreme Court asking for their testimony to be heard at the appeal in the case of V. Kukui, since they were witnesses to the events of 29 September 1969 which

are described in the essay "Baby Yar".<sup>16</sup> This essay was described at Kukui's trial as slanderous, and its circulation figured in the charges against him.

\* \* \*

Moscow. A. Sakharov and V. Chalidze, members of the Committee for Human Rights, have submitted a statement to the RSFSR Supreme Court about the trial of V. Kukui (see this issue of the *Chronicle*: "The strange trial in Sverdlovsk" in the section "Materials of the Committee for Human Rights").

#### The Meskhetian Movement

The Seventh National Assembly of the Turkic Association for the Defence of National Rights, formed by the Turkic people at present in exile, was held on 18 July 1971 at the Kirov state farm in the Srednechirchik District, in the Tashkent Region of the Uzbek Republic. Despite the opposition of the authorities, who had refused to make premises available and who had barred delegates from travelling to the appointed place because, it was alleged, of quarantine regulations, several hundred delegates attended from Kazakhstan, Kirghizia, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Tadzhikistan and Kabardino-Balkaria. The Assembly unanimously approved an appeal to L. I. Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Soviet communist party, N. V. Podgorny, Chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and A. N. Kosygin, Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers (with copies to U Thant, General Secretary of the UNO, and to the Parliament, President, government and people of the Republic of Turkey). In this appeal "the Meskhetian Turks, exiled in 1944 to Central Asia, demand the opportunity to return to their homeland and to be re-united with their people". Besides this a protest at the provocative actions of the authorities, who had tried to prevent the assembly from being held, was also approved. On the instructions of the assembly the protest was signed by Enver Odabashev, Chairman of

[16. Probably the same as the *samizdat* item summarized in *Chronicle* 16, p. 29.]

COCL (Chief Organising Committee for Liberation), and Alles Izatov, first deputy chairman of COCL.

\* \* \*

On 7 August the chairman of COCL, Enver (Enver Mishu-Oglu) Odabashev, born 1912, was arrested. The article under which the charge has been brought is unknown.<sup>17</sup>

#### Religious Persecution

Prienai, Lithuania. On 26 August Juozas Zdebskis [see *Chronicle* 18, p. 136], vicar of the Roman-Catholic church in Prienai [30 m. S of Kaunas], was arrested by organs of the Lithuanian Procuracy. J. Zdebskis is a popular figure among believers, and is well-known and respected by the Lithuanian intelligentsia. He had been teaching the catechism to children aged eight to nine who were preparing for their first communion. He had more than 200 pupils.

The arrest of Zdebskis was preceded by the following incidents.

On 16 July children accompanied by their parents assembled in the church to have their religious knowledge tested before their first communion. They were followed into the church by a group of ten persons (the chairman of the town party committee, three teachers—to identify the children—and officials of State Security). They began to photograph the children and ask them their names. The children were frightened, one little girl losing consciousness. The State Security officials, seeing that Zdebskis had a notebook, demanded that he give it to them, but he refused.

On 18 July 89 parishioners submitted a protest at the "outrages against believers" to the Control Commission at the Central Committee of the party. On 23 July a search of Juozas Zdebskis' home was carried out—they were looking

[17. A Reuter dispatch of 10 October reported that Odabashev had been sentenced to two years in late September in Azerbaidzhan for allegedly having increased illegally the size of his garden plot.]

for the note-book containing lists of children preparing for communion, and a catechism, but they did not find them.

After the arrest of J. Zdebskis a group of believers from the Prienai parish assembled at the town party committee building in order to protest about it, but they were not received. They then addressed a complaint about the illegal arrest of the priest to the Procuracy of the USSR. The protest was signed by 450 believers. Another protest from Prienai parishioners, with 350 signatures, was sent to the Central Committee of the Lithuanian party and to the Lithuanian Procurator-General.<sup>18</sup>

*Simnas.* The funeral of Mrs. Babarekaite, a parishioner of the Catholic church in the town of Simnas [in Alitus District], was held in the church in August. Among those who came to take their leave of the deceased were many schoolchildren, who wished to lay flowers on the coffin. But at the doors of the church the children were stopped by Guseviciene, the head-mistress of the school. Later she demanded that the teachers at the school should write a collective complaint against the priest who had conducted the funeral. Believers of the parish addressed a protest to the Lithuanian Central Committee. They wrote that this was not the first time Guseviciene had violated the right to freedom of conscience—she had forced religious pupils to join the Komsomol against their will. The protest was signed by 692 persons.

\* \* \*

*Kiev.* Olga Filippovna Skrebets, born 1938, a graduate of the Kiev Medical Institute, worked at the Institute for Tuberculosis. In December 1970 the preliminary defence of her dissertation took place. In 1971 she announced that she was leaving the communist party on religious grounds and because of the events in Czechoslovakia. She was ordered to enter the Pavlov Hospital for psychiatric examination, where her condition was diagnosed as the initial stage of schizophrenia. O. F. Skrebets was dismissed from her job. At present she is working for the ambulance service.

[18. A further protest, signed by 2,000 parishioners and dated 19 September, is summarized in a *New York Times* dispatch of 26 September.]

## News in Brief

*Moscow.* On 27 April Rolan Teodorovich Avgustov, born 1941, an electrician resident in Uman [100 m. S of Kiev, in Cherkassy Region] in the Ukraine, was detained at the entrance of the American Embassy. He had come to Moscow with a statement to the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet renouncing Soviet citizenship (his reason—expulsion from his trade union). After leaving the statement at the Reception Room of the Supreme Soviet, Avgustov went to the US Embassy and asked the policeman on duty to admit him. The policeman took him to the guard-room, from where Avgustov was sent to a psychiatric hospital. Three weeks later he was transferred to the Regional Psychiatric Hospital in Korsun-Shevchenko [in Cherkassy Region], where he spent one-and-a-half months, with the diagnosis "an attack of schizophrenia". During this period Avgustov's father was summoned to the Uman KGB, where he was told that his son had been detained while attempting to betray the Fatherland. At present Avgustov is at liberty.

\* \* \*

The English newspaper *The Daily Telegraph*, in its issue of 15 July [in fact: 1 June], published a report by the English actor David Markham about the detention of himself and his wife Olive by KGB officials at Moscow airport when they were leaving the USSR. Mr. Markham has played parts in several Russian plays which have been translated into English (Trofimov in A. P. Chekhov's play *The Cherry Orchard*, the priest in a television film of B. Pasternak's novel *Doctor Zhivago*). As an active member of the National Council for Civil Liberties, he was interested in the civil rights movement in Russia. He came to the USSR wishing to visit Pasternak's house at Peredelkino. When Mr. Markham and his wife were leaving Russia, KGB officials subjected them to a thorough search, going through all their clothing. After this they were repeatedly questioned for a total of eleven hours over a period of two days [28-29 May], during which time they were not allowed to telephone the British Embassy. The Markhams were told to hand over letters from participants in the struggle for civil rights in

Russia. During questioning they were threatened with long terms of imprisonment.<sup>19</sup>

\* \* \*

When in Belgrade as a tourist during the 1969 summer vacation, Strolman, a lecturer at a Moscow technical college, requested the Yugoslav authorities to grant him Yugoslav citizenship. When they refused to accede to his request and announced that they would return him to the USSR, he made an attempt to commit suicide by stabbing himself twice—in the region of the heart and in the region of the carotid artery. When he had recovered, Strolman was handed over to the Hungarians. While in prison in Budapest he again tried to kill himself. At present Strolman is in the USSR under investigation.

\* \* \*

At the end of July the security organs detained several persons while they were talking to foreign correspondents. L. Tsypin was detained in Pushkin Square at 4.30 p.m. on 19 July and taken to police station No. 108. At 2.15 p.m. on 20 July, also in Pushkin Square, A. Slepak was detained and taken to the same police station. At 11 p.m. on the same day L. Tsypin was detained outside the Puppet Theatre and taken to police station No. 17. At 6.40 p.m. on 27 July L. Tsypin and A. Slepak were again detained and taken to police station No. 10. On 27 July J. Begun was detained on the boulevard near Samotychnaya Square and taken to police station No. 17. When detained they were searched, and note-books were taken from them. In a number of cases the agents who detained them refused to reveal their identity. They were warned that if they did not stop associating with foreign correspondents, they would be subjected to criminal prosecution.

\* \* \*

At the beginning of May Leonid Rendel, who returned four years ago from the Mordovian camps<sup>20</sup> after serving

[19. See also extracts from their open letter to Mr. Kosygin in *The Daily Telegraph*, 7 June 1971.]

[20. See *Chronicles* 1 and 4, *Possev: Pervyi spetsialnyi vypusk*, Frankfurt, August 1969.]

ten years' imprisonment (the case of the Krasnopevtsev group in 1957<sup>21</sup>), applied to the USSR Minister of Internal Affairs and the chairman of the Moscow City Council for the restoration of his Moscow residence permit. Rendel was thereupon told to submit to the passport section of the MVD documents proving that he had resided in Moscow before his arrest, that his family was in Moscow, and that accommodation was available—which he did on 26 May.

On 22 July officers from police station No. 27 burst into the flat of Rendel's wife and ordered him to leave, otherwise proceedings would be taken against him for infringement of the residence regulations. On 27 July the police burst in again. This time Rendel's wife was handed an official refusal to give her husband a residence permit, dated 28 May. She was fined ten roubles "for harbouring citizen Rendel without a residence permit" and threatened with criminal proceedings for infringing the residence regulations.

\* \* \*

A. E. Krasnov-Levitin (on him see *Chronicle* No. 20), after an appeal which left his sentence unaltered, has been sent to Smolensk to serve his [3-year] term of imprisonment.

\* \* \*

On 29 July the RSFSR Supreme Court considered the appeal in the case of the Leningrad trial of persons connected with the "aeroplane affair" (see *Chronicle* No. 20). Only six immediate relatives of the defendants were admitted to the court-room. The appeal court left the sentences unaltered.

\* \* \*

#### *In the Ukrainian Supreme Court*

The Ukrainian Supreme Court was to have considered the appeal in the case of Reiza Palatnik (see *Chronicle* No. 20) at the end of July, but in connection with her statement that she had not been granted the right to familiarise herself with the materials of the court examination, the appeal was postponed and her case transferred from Kiev to Odessa.

\* \* \*

[21. For details see *Grani*, Frankfurt, 80, 1971, p. 146.]

On 3 August the Ukrainian Supreme Court heard the appeal in the case of F. M. Babelev of the Donetsk Region, who was convicted under article 187-1 of the Ukrainian Criminal Code (equivalent to article 190-1 of the Russian Code).

\* \* \*

On 29 July Anatoly Marchenko [author of *My Testimony*, Penguin, 1971] was released after three years' imprisonment. He was sent to Chuna Station in the Irkutsk Region [in central Siberia], where he has been placed under administrative surveillance [see also the *New York Times* dispatch of 9 August 1971].

\* \* \*

The following have been released from the Mordovian camps:

on 9 July: Lailis Rijnieks, a Latvian, on being pardoned. He was sentenced in 1963 to fifteen years' imprisonment in the case of the "Baltic Federation" together with Gunars Rode, Victor Kalnins, Knuts Skujenieks and others.

on 20 July: Victor Fyodorovich Grebenshchikov, born 1907, a resident of Alma-Ata [in Kazakhstan]; he was arrested in Moscow in 1967 when he attempted to throw the type-written text of his work "A history of the collectivisation of agriculture in the USSR" onto the territory of the American Embassy.

on 3 August: Dmitry Krasnov, a student at the Law Faculty of Kuibyshev University [500 m. SE of Moscow], after two years' imprisonment (on him see the Supplement to *Chronicle* No. 17 [where his name is mis-spelt as Kranov]).

on 26 August: Mikhail Horyn, after six years' imprisonment [see on him V. Chornovil, *The Chornovil Papers*, New York, 1968, and Michael Browne, *Ferment in the Ukraine*, London, 1971.]

\* \* \*

On 4 August Boris Maftser, one of the defendants at the Riga trial of the four (see *Chronicle* No. 20), was released from the Latvian KGB investigation prison (in Riga) on completion of his one-year sentence.

\* \* \*

The Lithuanian priest Antanas Seskevicius (on him see *Chronicle* No. 17) was released on 6 September.

\* \* \*

On 28 July Olga Iofe (on her see *Chronicle* No. 15) was released from a psychiatric hospital of ordinary type in Moscow.

\* \* \*

At the beginning of August Victor Kuznetsov (on him see *Chronicle* No. 9) was released from the special psychiatric hospital in Kazan [500 m. E of Moscow].

\* \* \*

In August Valeria Novodvorskaya (on her see *Chronicle* Nos. 11, 13) was transferred from the Kazan special psychiatric hospital to a psychiatric hospital of ordinary type in Moscow.

\* \* \*

Alexander Ginzburg, who was being held as a witness in Lefortovo prison in Moscow (see *Chronicle* No. 20), was transferred back to Vladimir prison on 5 August.

\* \* \*

Oleg Vorobyov, who was convicted in Perm [West Urals] (see *Chronicle* No. 18), has arrived in Vladimir prison to serve the first three years of his sentence.

\* \* \*

Ruta Alexandrovich (see *Chronicle* No. 20) has arrived in the Mordovian camps.

\* \* \*

Simas Kudirka (see *Chronicle* No. 20) has arrived in Dubrovlag camp No. 3.

\* \* \*

By decision of a court, Genrikh Altunyan (on him see *Chronicle* No. 11) was to be sent to work on the construction of a large chemical plant, but after a protest by the Procurator (on the grounds that Altunyan had committed "an especially dangerous crime") he was kept in his camp [in Krasnoyarsk province].

\* \* \*

The existence in the Soviet Union of a clandestine, type-written, monthly socio-political journal, *Political Diary*, has become known through reports in the Western press.<sup>22</sup> It has been circulating for the past seven years among a small group of the Soviet intelligentsia.

Of the more than 70 issues of the journal, only eleven have become available to Western publishers,<sup>23</sup> comprising a total of 530 pages. The problems touched on in the journal concern the economic and political life of the USSR. The journal has published various essays, usually anonymous ones, transcripts of closed party meetings, including the one at which Khrushchev was removed in 1964 and the October seminar on ideological matters (1966), and also the results of a survey carried out by *Literaturnaya gazeta* in 1968 among 10,000 of its subscribers; also various letters, petitions, documents, excerpts from unpublished books, and critical surveys of domestic and foreign policy.

\* \* \*

On 15 July A. V. Snegov, born 1898, a member of the

[22. See *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times* and *Aftenposten*, Oslo, for 22 August 1971.]

[23. The Russian edition is to be published by the Alexander Herzen Foundation, Amsterdam.]

party since 1917, was expelled from the party in his absence by the Krasnaya Presnya [near the centre of Moscow] district party committee.<sup>24</sup> After the October revolution Snegov carried out responsible party work in many cities of the USSR, and was elected a delegate to the 11th party congress [in 1922]. In 1937 he was arrested, and was tortured while under investigation. Released in 1939 on the quashing of his case, he immediately came to Moscow and appeared in Mikoyan's office to tell him about the lawless acts which were being committed during investigations. He was arrested on the spot and sentenced to ten years by the Special Board of the NKVD [an earlier name for the KGB]. After Stalin's death Snegov was rehabilitated, had several conversations with Khrushchev and was appointed head of the Political Directorate of GULAG [Chief Directorate of Camps] under the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs. He took part in the compilation of Khrushchev's secret speech to the 20th party congress. After the removal of Khrushchev he continued to struggle actively against the consequences of Stalin's personality cult. After making a sharply-worded speech at a party meeting in the MVD, he was dismissed. As the recipient of a special pension he repeatedly spoke at meetings of Old Bolsheviks, exposing the lawless acts of the Stalinists. In November 1965 he came out in support of the book *22 June 1941* by [A.] Nekrich. A brief transcript of the discussion of the book appeared abroad,<sup>25</sup> and an investigation was begun. Snegov, and others who had taken part in the discussion, were summoned several times by the Control Commission of the party.

Some time later Snegov spoke at a discussion<sup>26</sup> of a draft of Vol. 3 of the *History of the Communist Party* at the Institute of Marxism-Leninism, criticising the text dealing with the position of Kamenev, Zinoviev and Stalin on the eve of the October revolution. These two speeches served as the grounds for expelling Snegov from the party.

[24. See also reports in the western press, e.g. *The Times*, 13 September 1971.]

[25. English text in *Survey*, London, 63, 1967, Russian in *Possev*, 13 January 1967.]

[26. Russian transcript in *Grani* 65, 1967, pp. 129-56, abbreviated English text in *Survey* 63, 1967.]

### Samizdat News

*A. I. Solzhenitsyn: August 1914.* At the beginning of June 1971 there appeared a report of the publication of A. I. Solzhenitsyn's new novel *August 1914* (YMCA Press, Paris). The author's *Afterword* to the novel specifies the circumstances which prevented it from being printed by Soviet publishing-houses: "This book cannot now be printed in our homeland except in *samizdat*, because of objections by the censorship which are unintelligible to normal human reason: even if everything else were acceptable it would be obligatory to write the word 'God' with a small initial letter."

\* \* \*

"*Social Problems*", issue No. 11, May-June 1971. Compiled by V. Chalidze. Contents: Documents of the Committee for Human Rights [see also above]:

—Protocols of 20 May 1971 (on the election of I. R. Shafarevich to membership of the Committee);

—R. A. Medvedev: "Compulsory psychiatric hospitalisation for political reasons" (a report to the Committee);

—A. S. Volpin: An opinion on R. A. Medvedev's report;

—V. N. Chalidze: The rights of persons who have been judged to be mentally ill;

—An opinion of the Committee on the question of the rights of persons who have been judged to be mentally ill;

—A. D. Sakharov, A. N. Tverdokhlebov, V. N. Chalidze, I. R. Shafarevich: Letter to the Legislative Proposals Commission of the USSR Supreme Soviet, to B. V. Petrovsky, USSR Minister of Health, and to N. A. Shchelokov, USSR Minister of Internal Affairs;

—An appeal by the Committee for Human Rights to the Fifth World Congress of Psychiatrists.

\* \* \*

*V. Chalidze: Reflections on Man.* This book consists of four sections: "Manifestations of the will", "Human behaviour", "Society", "The ending of bondage". The author discusses human bio-sociology, ethics and law.

\* \* \*

*P. Yakir: Childhood in prison, part 1.* The author relates what he saw on being arrested in 1937, aged fourteen. These memoirs cover the years 1937-1944. [Publication begun in *Russkaya mysl*, 91, rue du Faubourg St. Denis, Paris 10, 28 October 1971.]

\* \* \*

*Smirnovsky: Marxism-Leninism under lock and key. Moscow, 1971.* An essay on the artificial creation in our country of obstacles to the circulation of the foreign communist press. *Soyuzpechat* [the official Soviet agency] sells such publications as *Unità*, *L'Humanité*, *The Morning Star* and so on, but in the opinion of the author a number of special measures are taken in order to restrict their accessibility to the reader. These measures are: delay in the sale of the newspapers, which reduces the topicality of the information; the preservation of "seditious" issues in the special sections of libraries; increases in the price of the newspapers.

\* \* \*

*G. Svirsky<sup>27</sup>: Letter to V. I. Mishin, lecturer at Gorky University.* In his book *Social [Obshchestvennyi] Progress* (Gorky, Vyatka publishing-house, 1970) V. I. Mishin calls for a "national levelling-out" regarding persons with higher education and for the "maintenance of an equal level of development among the peoples of the USSR": "A key role in the question of the development of national relationships in the period of the construction of communism . . . will be played by a further equalisation in the level of development of all the nations and peoples of the USSR", since "there exist in our country not only the remains of an old inequality, but also elements of a new inequality which has arisen during the years of Soviet authority . . . In 1929 the proportion of students among Georgians and Armenians was twice as high as their share of the population of the USSR, while among Jews it was seven times

[27. See a speech by Svirsky (a writer) attacking censorship in A. Brumberg, ed., *In Quest of Justice*, New York and London, 1970, document 61.]

as high. The result of this was to give a picture of obvious unevenness in the distribution of specialists."

G. Svirsky asks the author of the book what he means by the "conscious control of the development of national relationships", and demonstrates by means of material from the book that the term "levelling-out" in fact means the barring of Jews from universities and institutes—as was done in tsarist Russia (when it was motivated by the large proportion of Jews among the revolutionaries). It is common knowledge that during the reign of Alexander III a *numerus clausus* was established for the admission of Jews to educational institutions: in the two capitals—3%, in provincial cities—5%, within the Jewish pale—10%.

"Judging by your table and by your comments on 'the new inequality', you would wish, for example, the number of Jewish, Georgian and Armenian students not to exceed the 'proportion of the population of the USSR made up by these nationalities. Jews, let us say, comprise 1.1% of the population, and so the quota of Jewish students should not exceed this figure. If we proceed on the basis of this principle, then the quota of Jewish students (which is inevitably introduced by the very term 'levelling-out') must be even lower than it was under Alexander. Three to five times lower" . . . "To campaign for this is to campaign for *intellectual genocide*", G. Svirsky concludes.

\* \* \*

*Open Letter to the editorial board of "Literaturnaya gazeta".* On 7 June *Literaturnaya gazeta* published an article by B. Antonov and V. Katin entitled "Wipe away your tears, gentlemen", which dealt with the trials in Lenin-grad and Riga (on them see *Chronicle* No. 20). Ten Soviet citizens (Joseph Begun, Leonid Makhlis, Alexander Krimgold, Mikhail Alexandrovich, Victor Polsky, David Markish, Esther Lazebnikova-Markish, Mikhail Kalik, Vladimir Zaretsky and Mark Patlakh) accuse the authors of the article of consciously distorting information about the trials. "We have taken up our pens only because we do not wish to be the passive witnesses of the campaign to misinform the general reader which is being carried out by *Literaturnaya gazeta*".

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- Article 9: No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.
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