The Soviet Union maintains its long-standing policy of repression with respect to its Jewish citizens depriving them of the right to their own cultural and religious life and violating their human right of freedom to emigrate.

Continuing its efforts to mobilize non-Jewish public opinion to bring effective pressures on the Soviet Union to change such policies, the American Jewish Committee co-sponsored in September 1971, with the National Catholic Conference for Interracial Justice and the Chicago Theological Seminary, a special conference to deal with interreligious approaches and actions on behalf of the Soviet Jewish community.

As a result of these deliberations the National Interreligious Task Force on Soviet Jewry was formed (Appendix A) to establish a strong interreligious voice on behalf of Soviet Jews which would have a major impact on the national and international scenes. The Task Force is holding a National Interreligious Consultation on Soviet Jewry, the first of its kind, on March 19th-20th, 1972, which is bringing together the country's leading Catholic, Protestant and Jewish spokesmen to act upon the plight of Soviet Jews. This conference will serve as the interfaith equivalent of the 1971 Brussels Conference on Soviet Jewry.

R. Sargent Shriver has agreed to serve as Honorary National Chairman of the Consultation and has enlisted some of the nation's leading citizens as co-sponsors (Appendix B). The consultation, to be held at the Center for Continuing Education at the University of Chicago, will be addressed by leading experts in the fields of...
foreign and interreligious affairs, among them Ambassador Rita Hauser, the American representative to the United Nations Human Rights Commission; Senator Edward Brooke; Congressman Robert Drinan, Mayor Charles Evers, etc. (Appendix C).

Immediately following the conclusion of the Consultation on March 20th, the Task Force is sponsoring an inter-faith service on behalf of Soviet Jewry at the Holy Name Cathedral, with His Eminence John Cardinal Cody, Archbishop Iakovos, the Rev. Dr. Eugene Carson Blake and Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum.

If the necessary operating funds for its first year are available, the Task Force would serve as a national, prestigious organization through which concerned Christians may act in behalf of the Soviet Jewish community. In view of the significant number of national American Jewish organizations involved in this issue, the Task Force will be composed largely of Christian components.

The Task Force will develop and implement interreligious programs at local, grass roots levels as well as on the national scene. National oriented programs will include periodic Interreligious Consultations, publication of papers, reports, statements, a new monthly periodical on Soviet Jewry and if possible, a high level interreligious Mission to the Soviet Union to investigate conditions there, followed by meetings with European church leaders to enlist their support. Local efforts will be concentrated on developing and sensitizing local communal structures (e.g., sectarian colleges, church bodies, ministerial associations, etc.)

Thus, in times of crisis and emergency, the Task Force will be the national mobilizing and coordinating force in the Christian community on behalf of Soviet Jewry.

Structurally, the Task Force will have two national co-chairman and an expanded leadership drawn from those participating in the March Consultation who hold key theological and community positions. The Consultation and minimal staff requirements and operation costs for the first year of the Task Force are projected at $55,000 (Appendix D).
NATIONAL INTERRELIGIOUS TASK FORCE ON SOVIET JEWRY

(IN FORMATION)

Dr. Jerome Brauer, University of Chicago, School of Divinity
Dr. Thomas Campbell, President, Chicago Theological Seminary
Father Edward Flannery, Director, Jewish Christian Studies,
Seton Hall University, South Orange, New Jersey
Monsignor John Gorman, Director, Mundelein College
Sister Adrian Marie Hofstetter, Chairman, Sisters Uniting,
Memphis, Tennessee
Dr. Andre LaCocque, Professor in Old Testament, Chicago
Theological Seminary
Richard H. Levin, Chairman, Chicago Chapter, American Jewish
Committee
Dr. Clyde Manschreck, Chicago Theological Seminary
Sister Suzanne Nofke, President, Siena Center, Racine, Wisc.
Father John Pawlikowski, Dean of Students, Catholic Theological
Union
Dr. Coert Rylaarsdam, University of Chicago, School of Divinity
Dr. Joseph Sittler, University of Chicago, School of Divinity
Gerald Strober, Interreligious Affairs Department, American
Jewish Committee, New York
Sister Margaret Traxler, Executive Director, National Catholic
Conference for Interracial Justice
APPENDIX B

NATIONAL INTERRELIGIOUS CONSULTATION ON SOVIET JEWRY

Center For Continuing Education, University of Chicago

March 19 - 20, 1972

Honorary National Chairman:

R. Sargent Shriver

National Co-Chairmen:

Sister Margaret Ellen Traxler
Professor André LaCocque
Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum

Honorary Sponsors:

Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy
Hon. Herman Badillo
Leonard Bernstein
Hon. Edward Brooke
William F. Buckley, Jr.
Miss Dorothy Day
Hon. Charles Evers
Hon. Gerald Ford
Arthur Godfrey
Hon. Arthur Goldberg
Hon. John A. Gronouski
Gen. Alfred M. Gruenther
Hon. Fred Harris
Mrs. La Donna Harris
Hon. Philip Hart
W. Randolph Hearst, Jr.
Rev. Theodore Hesburgh
Rabbi Abraham Heschel

Roy Wilkins
APPENDIX C

PROGRAM

NATIONAL INTERRELIGIOUS CONSULTATION ON SOVIET JEWRY

Center For Continuing Education, University of Chicago

March 19 - 20th, 1972

Sunday, March 19

6:00 PM Dinner and Opening Session R. Sargent Shriver
Chairman

Keynote Speakers:

Honorable Charles Evers,
Mayor, Fayette, Mississippi

Honorable Rita Hauser,
United States Ambassador
to the United Nations
Commission on Human Rights

Monday, March 20

9:00-12:00 Information and Planning Session

Dr. Thomas Bird,
City University of New York

Mr. Bernard Gwertzman
Foreign Correspondent
New York Times

Mr. Richard Maass
President
American Conference on
Soviet Jewry

12:00-1:30 Luncheon
Address by Representative Robert Drinan

1:30-2:30 Workshops

2:30-4:00 Concluding Plenary Session

7:30 PM Interreligious Service for Soviet Jewry
Holy Name Cathedral
Chicago, Illinois

His Eminence John Cardinal Cody
Archbishop Iakovos
Rev. Dr. Eugene Carson Blake
Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
APPENDIX D

PROJECTED BUDGET

NATIONAL INTERRELIGIOUS CONSULTATION ON SOVIET JEWRY (March 19-20)

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NATIONAL INTERRELIGIOUS TASK FORCE ON SOVIET JEWRY - First Year

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**GRAND TOTAL** $55,000
date January 12, 1972

to Area Directors and Executive Assistants

from David Geller
Gerald Strober

subject National Interreligious Consultation on Soviet Jewry

On March 19-20, 1972, a National Interreligious Consultation on Soviet Jewry will be held at the Center for Continuing Education, University of Chicago. We expect 200 religious leaders, particularly from the Christian communities to attend the consultation. This meeting grew out of suggestions made by a number of Protestants and Catholics in the Chicago area. AJC is providing staff for the Conference through our Chicago office and National.

We would appreciate your sending to us as soon as possible a list of at least 10 Christians who should be invited to this meeting. Please give us full names and addresses plus a descriptive line or two. Special emphasis should be placed on those individuals in your area who signed petitions or in other ways manifested an interest in the question of the Soviet Jews. It isn't necessary to clear with them in advance.

For your information, we shall try to cover hotel and food expenses of the invitees in Chicago, but they will be responsible for their own travel costs.

We look forward to hearing from you.
Several months ago a group of religious leaders met in Chicago to form a National Interreligious Task Force on Soviet Jewry. The group selected Sister Margaret Ellen Traxler, Executive Director of the National Catholic Conference for Interracial Justice, Professor Andre LaCocque, Chicago Theological Seminary, and Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, National Interreligious Affairs Director, American Jewish Committee, as its Co-Chairmen. I was delighted to accept the post of Honorary National Chairman of the Task Force. As a result of its deliberations and recognizing the crucial nature of the problems confronting the Jewish community in the Soviet Union, the Task Force agreed to conduct a National Interreligious Consultation on Soviet Jewry on March 19-20, at the Center for Continuing Education, University of Chicago.

Religious leaders of the Protestant, Roman Catholic, Orthodox and Jewish communities as well as representatives of voluntary agencies and civic and communal groups will join together to discuss the current situation affecting the three million Soviet Jews. Speakers will include Mayor Charles Evers, Ambassador Rita Hauser, Representative Robert Drinan and a recent Russian Jewish emigre.

The consultation will begin on Sunday evening, March 19th and will conclude at 4:00 pm, Monday, March 20th. Those who can remain will have the opportunity to attend a special community wide Interreligious Service on Monday evening. All sessions will be held at the Center for Continuing Education and delegates will be housed at the University of Chicago.
Please note that the Task Force sponsoring the consultation will provide housing and meals in Chicago, but will be unable to cover delegates' travel costs.

The sponsors are convinced that this important national event can have a profound impact on the future destiny of Jews in the Soviet Union. I cordially invite you to attend and I look forward to greeting you personally. Please complete and return the enclosed card to: Sister Margaret Ellen Traxler
1307 South Wabash
Chicago, Illinois 60605

A detailed program and other particulars will be forwarded to you by return mail.

Cordially,

R. Sargent Shriver
Honorary National Chairman

RSS:fm
Encl.