

Face-to-Face With Visiting Soviet Groups

1968 Petition and Audience Handout

МИЛОСТИ ПРОСИМ

PETITION TO THE OSIPOV BALALAIKA ORCHESTRA

We welcome you to Cleveland as fine artists and sensitive human beings. In this respect, we ask you to transmit our apprehensions to your government.

We are fearful for the fate of the Jewish people in the Soviet Union. They are denied the basic cultural rights granted to other nationality groups in the USSR; there are no Jewish schools, no Jewish theaters, no Jewish newspapers. Jews who desire to practice their religion are subjected to restrictions and abuse.

Most foreboding is the anti-Jewish feeling that permeates the Soviet press. Articles appear in the urban and provincial newspapers reviling and vilifying the "Zionists." It is well known that "Zionist" is the current designation for Jew in the Soviet press, other phrases, such as "ruthless cosmopolitan" and "economic parasite" having been used in the past.

It is inhumane for a government to prohibit citizens from leaving if they find conditions intolerable. The Soviet government stands guilty of suppressing emigration and silencing those who speak out against this policy. Certainly the example of Boris Kochubyevsky is a case in point.

Please tell your government that the world knows of the repression of the Jewish minority in the Soviet Union. Civilized people everywhere are shocked and saddened. There can be no respect and good will between nations where a nation fails to show respect and good will for its citizens, be they black, white, Russian, Tatar, or Jew.

Respectfully submitted,

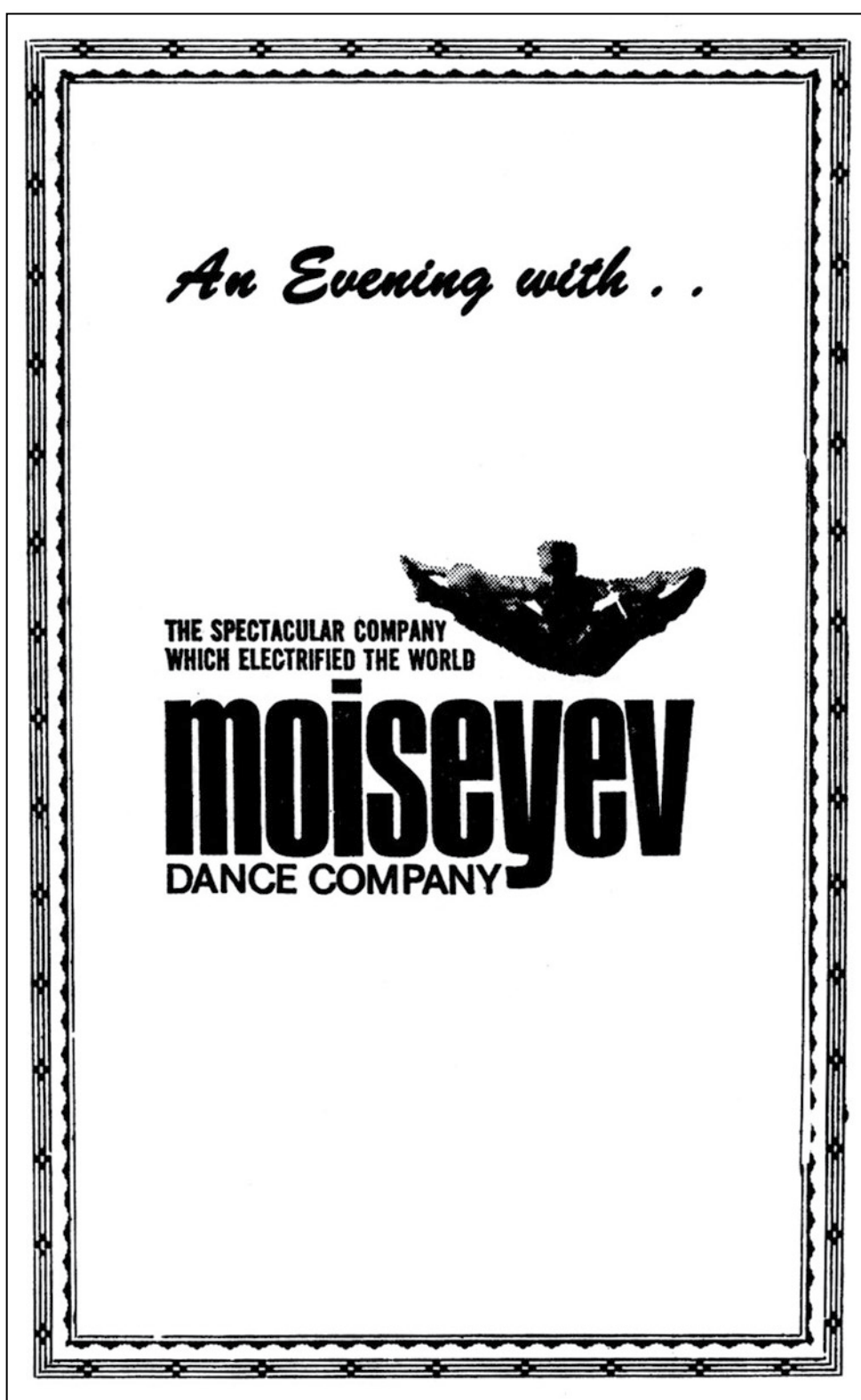
Cleveland Council on Soviet Anti-Semitism

Community Relations Committee,
The Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland

B'nai Akiva

B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation,
Case Western Reserve University

1972 Petition and Audience Hand-Out



Cover Page

TO THE AUDIENCE:

When the house lights dim and the curtain opens you will experience an exciting performance by a group of outstanding artists. No company in the world can surpass the Moiseyev Dancers. The very best of Soviet culture will be presented.

But there is another side to Soviet reality, a side seldom seen by the outside world. It is sordid, inhumane and oppressive. To be a Jew in the Soviet Union is to be subjected to singularly repressive treatment. Special prohibitions are placed upon Jewish education, religious observance and culture. Discrimination is practiced against Jews in employment, schooling and housing and in many other ways. Anti-Semitism is inflamed by a steady stream of news articles, books and cartoons from the government press.

Is it any wonder that an estimated 1/4 million Jews have sought permission to leave the Soviet Union? Most desire to be reunited with families in Israel. In all but a very few cases, applications have been summarily denied. Out of desperation, hundreds have made public appeals to their government and the U. N., demanding the right to leave. In retaliation for their outspoken stand, at least 28 have been imprisoned. Most of the other public protesters have been deprived of jobs and have been otherwise made to suffer.

Enjoy the Moiseyev dancers. However we hope that you will also think a bit about this other side of Soviet reality. By your applause, the dancers will know that you approve of their performance. This is simple and direct, and it is good.

But you can do more. You can let the Soviet authorities know that you do not approve of their "performance." Below is an appeal calling on the Soviet government to free those arrested and to grant exit permits to all who wish to leave. You need only sign your name and address, fold as indicated on the back page, add a 6¢ stamp, and mail. The address of the Soviet ambassador is imprinted for your convenience.

We sincerely hope that you will wish to be a part of this important humanitarian effort.

SIDNEY ZILBER, Chairman
Community Relations Committee
The Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland

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To the Leaders of the USSR:

I call upon the government of the USSR to restore to freedom the 28 Jews listed below, whose crime is their desire to be reunited with their families in their historic homeland of the Jewish people.

Leiba Knoch	Riga
Meri Knoch	Riga
Josef Mendelevich	Riga
Itzhak Zalmanson	Riga
Wolf Zalmanson	Riga
Silva Kuznetsov	Riga
Edward Kuznetsov	Riga
Boris Pestner	Riga
Arkady Shpilberg	Riga
Mendel Bodnie	Riga
Boris Maftzer	Riga
Semyon Burshtein	Sukhomi
Abram Danilashvili	Tbilisi
Benyamin Razenashvili	Tbilisi
Boris Kochubiyevsky	Kiev
Lilia Ontman	Chernovtsy
Alexander Galperin	Kishinev
Anatoly Altman	Odessa
David Chernoglaz	Leningrad
Lev Kornblit	Leningrad
Lev Yagman	Leningrad
Lassal Kaminsky	Leningrad
Vladimir Mogilever	Leningrad
Anatoly Goldfield	Leningrad
Solomon Breyser	Leningrad
Gregory Butman	Leningrad
David Boguslavsky	Leningrad
Hillel Shur	Leningrad

I call upon the government of the USSR, as an act of humanity and in accord with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ratified by the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, January 22, 1970), to grant exit permits to all Soviet Jews who wish to go to Israel.

SIGNATURE

ADDRESS

Cut here for mailing