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To the Editor:

I have read with great interest your recent editorial entitled, "Is This Moscow's Final Solution," concerning the latest outbreaks of violence against Jews in the Soviet Union. Those of us that have been following the situation would agree with your observations on the serious nature of the current anti-Jewish and anti-Israel campaign in the Soviet press. I will not take this opportunity to discuss the long standing anti-Semitic posture of the Soviet government nor the endemic anti-Semitism which has been so much a part of Russian history for the last two hundred years. Instead, I would address myself to your conclusion, namely, "...we are overcome with the anguished realization that we are helpless to alter the course of the pitiless Soviet steamroller as the intended victims themselves are."

First, I would remind you that the "intended victims," the Soviet Jews, have been resisting the pressures brought to bear on them in every way open to them. The tens of thousands of young Jews that celebrate Simhat Torah in the streets around the Moscow Synagogue each year is but one indication of this resistance.

Second, I would question your assertion that we in this country are helpless to aid our brethren in the Soviet Union. Let us try to separate myth from reality. It is true that Russia is a world power. However, Russia cannot go it alone. She requires the aid, cooperation, and good-will of others, including the United States. This has been amply demonstrated in recent years. Let me give a few examples.

In the economic sphere the Soviet Union has attempted to increase trade with the West. The Soviet Union has purchased enormous quantities of wheat from the U.S. and Canada to offset serious crop failures. In addition, she seeks to increase the purchase of Western manufactured goods to meet consumer demand at home. For all these the Soviet Union needs dollars which it hopes to get through the sale of goods and raw materials to the West.

In the political sphere, the presence of a militant China on the Soviet Union's extensive eastern border is an ominous threat. The Soviet Union has sought and will seek rapprochement with the U.S. as a counter to this threat.

In the ideological realm, the Soviet Union, as the traditional representative of communism, has been actively seeking to enlist the uncommitted nations of the world to communism. In its role of communist proselytizer and supposed champion of the down-trodden, the Soviet Union is quite sensitive to criticism that exposes its denial of human rights to its own citizens.

In view of this, I would say that the Soviet Union today, because of its many needs, is responsive to outside pressure—moral as well as political and economic. We have seen that protests by prominent international figures, by Communist parties in Western Europe, by community meetings in the U.S. and other countries, serve to temporarily retard the cruder displays of Soviet anti-Semitism. Much more can be done not only to halt blatant excesses of Soviet policy but also to halt the insidious attempts to eradicate Judaism and Jewish identity.

I could hope that the Cleveland Jewish News would provide a forum for the discussion of ways and means for the community and individuals to help in the task of redemption of Russian Jewry. To an alert, informed, and resourceful American Jewish community much is possible. The example of our response to the challenge of Israel's survival is before us. I leave you to conclude what History's judgment of us will be, if out of ignorance, misunderstanding, or fear, we abandon 3 million fellow Jews to the tender mercies of Soviet policy.

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