

JEWS OF THE FORMER
SOVIET UNION
YESTERDAY, TODAY
AND
TOMORROW

An International Policy Conference

Hotel Astoria, St. Petersburg
June 30 — July 3, 1996

1996

JEWS OF THE FORMER SOVIET UNION YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW

An International Policy Research Conference

Hotel Astoria, St.Petersburg

June 30 - July 3, 1996

Sponsored by

Petersburg Jewish University

**The American Jewish Committee
and the
Institute for Jewish Policy Research**

European Council of Jewish Communities

Moses Mendelssohn Zentrum

National Conference on Soviet Jewry

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of the Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung in the organization
of this conference.**

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PROGRAM OF THE CONFERENCE

June 30, 1996

6:00 PM

OPENING PLENARY SESSION.
PERSPECTIVES AND REALITIES OF JEWISH
LIFE IN THE FORMER SOVIET UNION

Themes: An overview of strengths and weaknesses of Jewish life throughout the FSU and the political and social forces with which it must contend

Welcoming Remarks

Opening Presentations:

Shlomo Avineri, Jerusalem
Michael Chlenov, Moscow

8:00 PM

Dinner, Banquet Hall

July 1, 1996

8:30 AM

PLENARY SESSION.
THE STATUS OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES
IN THE FORMER SOVIET UNION

Themes: Can one speak of Jewish "communities" or "populations"? How does one engage in the reconstruction of Jewish life, Jewish culture and identity following decades of Communism? What is the state of Jewish organization in these countries, and what practical measures can be taken to reach out to the Jewish majority?

Presentation: Zvi Gittelman, Ann Arbor

Panelists: Grigory Krupnikov, Riga
Leonid Levin, Minsk
Alexander Osoltsov, Moscow
Joseph Zissels, Kiev

Moderator: Andrew Baker, Washington

10:30 AM Coffee Break

11:00 AM **PLENARY SESSION.**
TAKING THEIR PLACE IN THE DIASPORA:
JEWS IN THE FORMER SOVIET UNION

Themes: What progress is being made in the independent development of Jewish communities in the FSU? What are the evolving relationships being developed between these communities and Western Jewry and the State of Israel?

Panelists: Ilya Dvorkin, St. Petersburg
Leonid Finberg, Kiev
inovy Kogan, Moscow

Moderator: Eugeniya Lvova, St. Petersburg

1:00 PM Luncheon - Angleterre Restaurant

2:30 PM Concurrent Workshops (Session I)

4:00 PM Coffee Break

4:30 PM Concurrent Workshops (Session II)

WORKSHOPS SELECTIONS:

1. Community Building: Practical resources, community relations, support from foreign organizations, developing local leadership.

(Moderator: Amos Avgar)

2. Enhancing Jewish Identity: Examination of demographic data, assimilation, Jewish self-definitions, cultural identity, drawing in the un-affiliated.

(Moderator: Mark Kupovetsky)

3. Relationship with the State of Israel: Present and future trends of aliyah, Zionism in the FSU, the place of Israel in the development of Diaspora Jewish life.

Moderator: Vladimir Glozman

4. History of Jewish life in the former Soviet Union: Review of new Jewish scholarship, assessing the state of research.

Moderator: Dmitry Elyashevich

5. Development of Educational Institute: Practical developments in Jewish education, building and strengthening Jewish communities through schools and educational programs.

Moderator: Hana Rothman

6. Development of Religious Life: Practical developments in Jewish religious life; synagogues and congregations as vehicles for building Jewish communities.

Moderator: Nate Geller

6:00 PM Break

8:00 PM "White Nights" Boat Excursion through St. Petersburg

July 2, 1996

8:30 AM **COMBINED PLENARY SESSION.**

**1. IN THE HOST SOCIETY: A MINORITY
AMONG MINORITIES**

Themes: How is the Jewish community affected by minority legislation governing cultural, religious and linguistic rights? How should Jewish views be aired and Jewish concerns addressed in the political arena?

**2. RACISM, XENOPHOBIA
AND ANTISEMITISM: HOW DEEP
IS THE INFECTION?**

Themes: What is the nature of antisemitism in the post-Communist countries of the FSU? How should Jewish communities monitor and combat

antisemitism, extremism and prejudice? How serious are threats posed by fascist movements and political figures?

Panelists: Alla Gerber, Moscow
David Raskin, St. Petersburg
Roman Spector, Moscow
Howard Spier, London
Emanuelis Zingeris, Vilnius

Co-moderators: Vladimir Raskin, Moscow
Julius Schoeps, Potsdam

10:30 AM Coffee Break

11:00 AM **COMBINED PLENARY SESSION.
CONTINUES**

1:00 PM Luncheon - Angleterre Restaurant

2:30 PM **PLENARY SESSION.
DRAWING STRENGTH FROM JEWISH
TEXTS AND SPIRITUALITY**

Introduction: Michael May, London

Presentation: Adin Steinsaltz, Jerusalem

4:00 PM Close of Session
Evening Free

July 3, 1996

9:00 AM **CLOSING PLENARY SESSION.
REBUILDING JEWISH LIFE IN THE FSU:
TOWARDS THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY**

**Reports from the Workshops
Summary Remarks**

Moderator: Antony Lerman, London

11:00 AM Close of Conference

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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