

【研究ノート】

THE JEWISH ISSUE IN RUSSO-JAPANESE CONTENTIONS:
 MARIA ZAKHAROVA'S FEBRUARY 2021 THREAT¹
 SOVIET S/S "ARKTIKA" MAY 1941 RESCUE OF
 FIFTY JEWISH REFUGEES STRANDED IN VLADIVOSTOK

Yakov Zinberg*

Abstract

Based on an online international conference presentation, the Research Note introduces the Soviet Union's decisive involvement in the Jewish refugees' transit through Japan in 1940-41. The Soviet authorities had initiated and continuously supported the transfer of Jewish refugees through its vast territory. However, the issue of Soviet involvement has not been examined sufficiently so far. The presentation contained a brief review of the Vladivostok transit crisis of March 1941, representing the Soviet authorities' behaviour. Specifically, it introduced an issue of transfer to Shanghai of the last group of Polish Jewish refugees stranded in Vladivostok in April 1941. Presented and briefly discussed are relevant current Russo-Japanese contentions focusing on the Jewish refugees' migration through the territory of the former USSR.

Keywords : Russo-Japanese relations, Jewish refugees, Sugihara Chiune, Maria Zakharova, Vladivostok, Jewish Distribution Committee, Transit, Meisinger Plan

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1 The text is based on my presentation at the online international conference "Evacuation, the Soviet Union and the Jews" held in Jerusalem, Israel, on December 21-22, 2021. See the attached conference program. Israeli public movement "For Better Future" (Hazit haKavod: הכבוד הזית) initiated a project "Evacuation" see <http://www.lost-childhood.com/en/about-the-project> (Accessed on December 15, 2021). See the conference at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c0UzOHmMOrQ> (Accessed on December 28, 2021) and

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ZKb2uPmyg4> (Accessed on December 28, 2021).

THE ZAKHAROVA THREAT

On February 4, 2021, Maria Zakharova, the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry spokeswoman, made a highly peculiar threatening statement during her regular briefing, referring to an article printed in the *Jerusalem Post*, a popular Israeli newspaper, on International Holocaust Remembrance Day, January 27, 2021.² The article was authored jointly by Motegi Toshimitsu, the then Japan's Foreign Minister, and the then Foreign Minister of the Republic of Lithuania, Gabrielius Landsbergis.³

Entitled "Remembering the 'visas for life,'" the article was dedicated to the activities of Chiune Sugihara, a Japanese diplomat who is credited with issuing over 2100 transit visas to primarily Jewish refugees from Poland in the summer of 1940. He served in Lithuania as a Vice-Consul at Japan's Consulate located in Kaunas (Kovno). In 1984, Sugihara was awarded a title of "Righteous among the Nations" by Israel's Yad Vashem Institute, the Holocaust Memorial. Claiming that before reaching Japan, "the Jewish refugees had to travel thousands of miles on the Trans-Siberian Railway," foreign ministers of Japan and Lithuania failed to mention transit arrangements made by the Soviet Union's authorities. Besides, a reference to a destination of "North America," indicated as a purpose of the refugees' flight eastwards, was incorrect.

Describing the contemporary international context, foreign ministers pointed out that "in the summer of 1940, Lithuania was occupied by the USSR, just as many other European states were occupied by the Nazis or the USSR that summer." Concluding, the foreign ministers have proclaimed that Sugihara's legacy served as "a foundation of friendship among Japan, Lithuania, and the Jewish communities."⁴



Maria Zakharova
Tribute to The Council of the
Federation of the Federal Assembly
of the Russian Federation

2 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5y8J-FLbA4Q> (Language: Russian) Accessed on January 1, 2022.

3 <https://www.jpost.com/opinion/commemorating-visas-for-life-on-holocaust-remembrance-day-656802> (Accessed on December 24, 2021).

4 Ibid.

On her part, addressing the audience a week later, Maria Zakharova expressed a regret, criticizing the *Jerusalem Post* article's authors for exploiting a "worthy occasion" of the International Holocaust Remembrance Day with the alleged purpose of promoting "a distorted perception" of World War II and accusing the Soviet Union of "occupying" Poland and the three Baltic countries in 1939-1940." Furthermore, Zakharova proceeded to criticize the Japanese diplomacy for "allowing itself to be dragged into Lithuania's political games, which have the ultimate aim of revising the outcomes of World War II and the decisions of the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg."⁵

Besides, Zakharova mentioned historical revisionism as a shared feature of Japan's and Lithuania's policies, specifying that Lithuania aimed at "diverting the international community's attention from the ongoing glorification of Lithuanian collaborators and Nazi accomplices, guilty of exterminating Lithuania's Jewish community (over 200,000 people)." Referring to Japan's stance, Zakharova called "Tokyo's historical myopia" astonishing, specifying that "during the events in Europe, Japan was openly attacking China and brutally suppressing any form of resistance." In that context, Zakharova also mentioned: "Suffice it to recall the Nanjing massacre."⁶

Zakharova characterized the joint article as devoted to Chiune Sugihara and praised the Japanese diplomat's behavior. In that regard, promising to "certainly discuss Jewish refugees' transit via the Soviet Union and the role of the Soviet People's Commissariat (Ministry) of Foreign Affairs", Zakharova claimed that "selective attitude to giving the background of Chiune Sugihara's story" was "disturbing" and even warned "our colleagues from the Japanese Foreign Ministry that further solidarity with Lithuanian historical revisionism may become an irritant in our bilateral relations." According to Zakharova, her critical comments followed those expressed by the Embassy of Russia in Japan. She said she hoped that the *Jerusalem Post* would make them public.⁷

AMBASSADOR GALUZIN'S URGE

In fact, on February 13, 2021, the *Jerusalem Post* had indeed printed an article written by Mikhail Galuzin, Russia's Ambassador in Japan. The article bore the title "Russian ambassador to Japan:

5 Ibid.

6 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5y8J-FLbA4Q>

7 Ibid. For a brief review of Zakharova's appeal in the Japanese press, see *Hokkaido Shinbun*, February 6, 2021: 6. For a more detailed critical review in Japanese, see Satoh Masaru, '知の技法・出世の作法', *週刊東洋経済*, February 27, 2021: 82-83. Russian major news agency, TASS, informed about Zakharova's briefing under the title "Mid-Yaponiya-Revizionism-Preduprezhdenie" (Ministry of Foreign Affairs-Japan-Revisionism-Warning). See *TASS, World News*, 04.02.2021 18:16 (Language: Russian).

Comparing USSR, Nazi Germany is outrageous.”⁸ It appears from Zakharova’s appeal that her statements should be viewed as a supplement to Galuzin’s comments. In this regard, it is essential to note that Galuzin’s text contained no warnings regarding any negative prospects of the evolution of the Russo-Japanese relations. On his part, Galuzin strongly defended the Soviet Union’s leading role in defeating Nazi Germany. The Ambassador targeted, in particular, the Jewish readers through asserting that “it was the Red Army that launched the liberation mission in Europe, having thereby saved whole nations from destruction, enslavement and other horrors of the Holocaust.” Furthermore, Galuzin reminded that the International Holocaust Remembrance Day “was chosen for a reason: it was on January 27, 1945, when the Soviet troops liberated the Auschwitz death camp”. However, Galuzin abstained from indicating why this memorial day is not officially marked in Russia.⁹

Speaking about the Soviet Union’s annexation of Eastern Poland, Galuzin ignored a contentious issue of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact agreements. The Ambassador only pointed out that “Soviet troops entered Poland, or, to be more exact, the western parts of Ukraine and Belorussia, which belonged to it at that time, after the German aggression launched on September 1, 1939.”¹⁰ While praising Sugihara’s having saved “thousands of Nazi-persecuted Jews,” Galuzin placed the Japanese diplomat’s role in a different context. Specifically, he accused the article’s authors of a conspicuous “absence of any mention of the alliance between militarist Japan and Nazi Germany in WWII.”

The Ambassador found it meaningful that Sugihara “was not met with honors upon his return home.” Galuzin even mentioned that “according to some sources, he was dismissed from the diplomatic service.”¹¹ Concluding his article, Galuzin proceeded to urge “our Japanese colleagues to approach the historic truth without bias instead of cherry-picking the pages that could be published without shame today.”¹²

8 <https://www.jpost.com/opinion/russian-ambassador-to-japan-comparing-ussr-nazi-germany-is-outrageous-658852> (Accessed on December 18, 2021).

9 Ibid.

10 Ibid.

11 According to Ilya Altman’s findings, Sugihara was apprehended in 1944 by Soviet troops in Bucharest, Romania, where he served at Japan’s Embassy. He spent about two and a half years in Soviet captivity before returning to Japan. Starting from 1960, Sugihara successfully worked in Moscow for 17 years as a trade representative.

See <https://www.culture.ru/movies/10216/lekciya-transsibirskii-tranzit-spasenie-yaponskim-diplomatom-evreiskikh-bezhencev> (Accessed on January 4, 2021).

12 Ibid.

Galuzin's remark about Sugihara's dismissal deserves a critical comment. During Japan's National Diet budget committee meeting, held on 11 March, 1992, the then Japan's Foreign Minister, Watanabe Michio, referring to Sugihara Chiune's status, mentioned that after issuing "those visas" in 1940 Sugihara worked for seven years in Japan's consulates located in Prague, Konigsberg, and Bucharest. According to Watanabe, that implied that he "was not dismissed." Moreover, Watanabe specified that in 1947 one-third of the Foreign Ministry's staff had been dismissed from service, which, according to Watanabe, meant that Sugihara was one of them, with no embarrassing connotations present.¹³ On his part, Byodo Nagao, the then Head of the Foreign Ministry's European Affairs Bureau, added that Sugihara had received Order of the Sacred Treasure (勲五等瑞宝章) upon completion of his service.¹⁴

THE SOVIET UNION'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE JEWISH TRANSIT: EITHER ODESSA OR VLADIVOSTOK?

Thanks to the archives findings of Ilya Altman and Ekaterina Guseva, Russian scholars, we have no doubts about paramount significance of receiving Soviet "exit visas" for the recipients of "Sugihara visas."¹⁵ Moreover, we have reasons to estimate Sugihara's activity as auxiliary against the background of the Soviet Union's leading role in maintaining and securing a stable transit of qualified Polish Jewish refugees through its vast territory.¹⁶

Several essential factors accounting for the relevant Soviet policies have been discussed in the critical literature. However, I would single out, as a principal factor, a need to resolve the issue of managing an enormous growth of Jewish population, caused by annexation by the Soviet Union in 1939 and 1940 of eastern parts of Poland (presently western Ukraine and Belarus), Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Bessarabia, and North Bukovina.

In particular, the Soviet authorities must have envisioned enormous difficulties of controlling numerous religious organizations and their followers. According to December 22, 1942 estimate offered by the American Joint Distribution Committee (AJDC) functionary, "...the majority of the

13 See the National Diet Budget Committee meeting record in Japanese: 題一類題十七号 (付属の三) 予算委員会第二分科会議録第一号, March 11, 1992, pp. 42-43.

14 Ibid.

15 Guseva, Elizaveta, 'Yaponskij Vallenberg' (Japanese Wallenberg), *Mezhdunarodnaya Zhizn* '09 (2013): 154-174; Altman, Ilya, 'Pravednik narodov mira Chiune Sugihara' (Righteous Among the Nations, Chiune Sugihara), *Novaya i Novejshaya Istoriya* 05 (2014): ISSN: 0029-5124: 184-203. Language: Russian.

16 In toto, up to 300,000 Polish Jewish refugees found refuge in the USSR.

Eastern European yeshivah¹⁷ formerly were located in Poland. Following the invasion of Poland by Germany, a large number of them fled and settled for a brief period in the Vilna area of Lithuania. With the absorption of Lithuania by Russia, about 1,000 of the yeshivah people from that area were enabled, largely through the efforts of the Joint Distribution Committee, to emigrate to the Far East. About one-half of them were subsequently evacuated from the Far East to other destinations – the Americas, Palestine, etc.”¹⁸

The number of 1,000 religious followers makes up about one-half of all the Sugihara visas recipients.¹⁹ Typically, the All-Union Communist Party (Bolshevik) Decree Regarding Refugees from Lithuania, issued on December 12, 1940, stipulated in item 2 that refugees, numbering 1,991 people and holding entry visas granted by respective countries, were allowed to depart abroad, “considering that a majority of this contingent are being a non-toiling element”.²⁰ Incidentally, remaining poorly examined, the Jewish World War I transit through Japan involved at least 2,000 war refugees. Distinct similarities with World War II transit relate to transit routes and Japanese authorities’ preferential treatment.

However, differences in life threat level and the refugees’ social composition are just as striking. While World War I refugees, predominantly women and children, were victims of the 20th-century first genocide, inflicted by the Russian Imperial Army, World War II refugees, mostly young adult males, experienced a far less significant life threat. The Sugihara visas initiative was a mere component of a far larger scheme devised by the Soviet authorities in response to the Jewish population’s enormous growth due to the Soviet Union’s territorial expansion. The mentioned earlier Soviet All-Union Communist Party Directive as of December 12, 1940, indicating 1,991 mostly Sugihara visa recipients, served to shape the refugees’ destiny.²¹

17 Jewish religious education institutions..

18 JDC Archives. NY_AR3344_Count_08_00564.

19 According to Kanno Kenji, in 1940-41, approx. 4,500 Jewish refugees passed through Japan, of whom Sugihara visas recipients numbered 1,800-1,850 (1,400-1,450 holders and their companions). See Kanno, Kenji, “*How Many Jewish Refugees Reached Japan in 1940-41*”: https://www.goingintowhere.com/speakervideos?fbclid=IwAR0j3NNgHc8qt5eLoQDweVe_l20GGuGPdm9Jzqhc2_1KJQYetATOlC6ve_E (Accessed on December 20, 2021).

20 See the original text in Russian at <https://alexanderyakovlev.org/fond/issues-doc/58761> (Accessed on December 10, 2021).

21 For a more detailed review of World War I, see my lecture presentation at https://www.goingintowhere.com/speakervideos?fbclid=IwAR0j3NNgHc8qt5eLoQDweVe_l20GGuGPdm9Jzqhc2_1KJQYetATOlC6ve_E (Accessed on December 29, 2021).

According to Ilya Altman's findings, at the end of April 1940 – three months before “Sugihara visas” issuing – the Soviet authorities were ready to offer a passage through the USSR to Palestine-bound refugees from Lithuania.²² Remaining largely unexplored, this issue requires a thorough investigation. In a rare estimate dating back to 1973, Yehuda Bauer, discussing the Sugihara visas route, related as follows:

“..at the same time and in a similar fashion steps were undertaken to enable Jews reach Palestine via Odessa. After much endeavour by Chaim Barlas, the Jewish Agency representative in Istanbul, the British consul in Kaunas granted 250 Palestine certificates. Approximately 550 additional forms were prepared that served as warrants declaring that a Palestine immigration certificate awaited the holders in Istanbul. With these papers it was possible to travel to Moscow and from there to Istanbul and to Palestine. This operation was carried out at great speed. Later about 400 additional certificates were prepared by local Jews using false British seals. During the summer and autumn of 1940, a total of about 1,200 Jews passed through Odessa on the way to Palestine.”²³

According to Ilya Altman, in 1940-41, as many as 3,228 people travelled from Lithuania through the Soviet Black Sea port of Odessa, which is a number exceeding that of Sugihara visa recipients migrating through Vladivostok during the same period.²⁴ According to I. Izzet Bahar, “in fact, a communication sent by Barlas to Jerusalem shows between December 25, 1940, and February 14, 1941, 695 immigrants came to Istanbul via Odessa in 6 groups. The Lithuanian city of Kaunas was starting point for these organized groups, and in different communications, they were referred as Kaunas groups”.²⁵

SOVIET-JAPANESE JOINT HUMANITARIAN OPERATION AND THE “ARKTIKA” STEAMSHIP INITIATIVE

Concluding and adding my share to the contributions of Altman and Guseva, I wish to drive attention to a remarkable instance of bilateral cooperation between Japan and the USSR. It testifies to a determination of the Soviet side to resettle the qualified group of Jewish refugees beyond Soviet borders. The Soviet archives contain a letter dated March 28, 1941, signed by Alimov, the

22 Altman, Ilya, ‘The issuance of visas to war refugees by Chiune Sugihara as reflected in the documents of Russian archives’, *Darbai ir dienos* 67 (2017): 233.

23 JDC Archives: NY_AR3344_00055_00019.

24 Altman, Ilya, ‘Pravednik narodov mira Chiune Sugihara’, p. 197.

25 I. Izzet Bahar, *Turkey and the Rescue of European Jews*. New York: Routledge, 2015, p. 213.

then “Intourist” (foreign tourism national operator) Vice Chairman, and addressing Anastas Mikoyan, the then USSR Foreign Trade Minister. Alimov informed the minister that 135 transit Japan-bound “emigrants” from Lithuania were not admitted on board a Japanese ship “Amakusa-maru” on March 21 in Vladivostok, even though 98 people were Japanese transit visa holders. According to Alimov, the captain referred to a specific restriction order issued by the Japanese authorities.²⁶ On March 31, Mikoyan addressed Vyacheslav Molotov, the then Soviet Foreign Minister, asking him to pressure the Japanese government to “liquidate” the troubled state of affairs in Vladivostok. Mikoyan had mentioned only 98 “emigrants from Lithuania”.²⁷

It is well worth mentioning at this point that during 1940 and early 1941, Nazi Germany “continued to try to help Jews leave Reich territory. According to David Engel, “Adolf Eichmann, who had supervised the Central Offices for Jewish Emigration in Vienna and Prague and had assumed control of a similar Reich-wide agency in October 1939, actively assisted German Jews in using escape routes through Italy and Lithuania and worked with Soviet and Japanese authorities in arranging for thousands of Jews to travel via the trans-Siberian railroad to the International Settlements at Shanghai.”²⁸

In Vladivostok, as of April 9, 1941, “all the Japanese visa holders left for Japan, with 55 people remaining of whom 13 people have entry visas to US and Chile, 39 people – to Dutch island of Curacao, three people – to Shanghai (with Chinese consulate visas). Besides, one person holds only a Japanese transit visa, and another person has no visas at all.”²⁹

Fortunately, the Joint Distribution Committee’s archives help identify names of 50 refugees initially stranded in Vladivostok in April 1941, who eventually reached the port of Shanghai on board a Soviet steamship “Arktika”.³⁰ A prominent Jewish scholar and literary figure, Yehoshua Rapoport (1895-1971), one of 50 rescued refugees, recalls the rescue as follows in his diary, writing in Yiddish on May 12, 1941:

26 See a photocopy of the letter in Guseva, Elizaveta, ‘Yaponskij Vallenberg,’ p. 174.

27 Ibid.

28 Engel, David, *The Holocaust. The Third Reich and the Jews*. Third Edition, Oxon: Routledge, 2021: 65-66.

29 See Kokushikan University Asia-Japan Research Center *Working Paper 2017*, p. 41

30 See the attached JDC documents below, with a partial list of the rescued provided: NY_AR3344_00053_00538; NY_AR3344_Count_08_00082 (a full list contained).

“We arrived in the middle of the night after five hours at sea without warm food. The Jewish community in Shanghai did not receive the fifty refugees in their homes, but sent us to the Jewish Club, where we were to sit for the rest of the night. The rabbi did prepare a home for the rabbis and the rabbinic students, but for the simple Jews there was no place and we...were tossed into the Pingling shelter, into the pigsty, without a table, without a chair... It was so hard to receive a few dollars for a flat-the local Jews regarded this with misgivings: why are we better than the German Jews [they asked]? They can live in the “Heime” [homes] and you cannot?”³¹



Pearl Recht

Tribute to Visual History Archive
<https://vhaonline.usc.edu/viewingPage?testimonyID=37763&returnIndex=0#>

Another survivor of the 55 stranded refugees, Pearl Recht, has left detailed testimonies available online in English.³²

“BAD GERMAN” NARRATIVE: ESCAPING THE EXTERMINATION?

Whether or not close to 20,000 Jews under the Japanese domination could be subjected to elimination remains unclear. Whether or not Joseph Meisinger, “the Butcher of Warsaw”, who served as the Gestapo head based in Tokyo from April 1941 to May 1945, had indeed offered an extermination plan to the Japanese authorities in Shanghai during his 1942 visit – the notorious “Meisinger Plan”³³ – has no documented evidence. However, according to recent findings in the Russian

31 See Eber, Irene, *Voices from Shanghai: Jewish Exiles in Wartime China*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008, p. 91. According to Eber, Rapoport was born in Bialystok and lived in Berlin and Warsaw. However, Eber’s reference to Rapoport’s coming to Shanghai via Kobe is incorrect. See Eber, *Voices from Shanghai*, p.62.

32 <https://vhaonline.usc.edu/viewingPage?testimonyID=37763&returnIndex=0#> (Accessed on December 12, 2021). 2021); <https://collections.ushmm.org/search/catalog/irn505862> (Accessed on December 26, 2021).

33 Tokayer, Marvin, Swartz, Mary, *The Fugu Plan. The Untold Story of the Japanese and the Jews During World War II*. Jerusalem: Gefen Publishing House, 2004, pp. 222-226. Initially published in 1979 by Paddington Press. No documented references have been provided so far. The books’ narrative pictures a “bad German,” Meisinger, in contrast to “good Japanese.” For a relevant issue discussion see my presentation, entitled “In Search for a Good Japanese”, at <https://www.goingintonowhere.com/speakervideos> (Accessed on January 2, 2022).

archives, a Soviet diplomat who visited Shanghai in April 1943 reported that “expulsion of the Jews” turned into a priority in terms of “cleansing the city from foreigners”.³⁴ According to the diplomat’s report, three specific variants were under consideration:

- “1) to place all the Jews on barges, send them off and drown in the open sea”;
- 2) “to send all the Jews to a distant uninhabited island located in the Southern seas”;
- 3) “form a Ghetto in Shanghai or the city’s outskirts”.³⁵

According to the report, the Japanese Navy authorities supported the first variant; the Army command supported the second variant while Japan’s Foreign Ministry was in favour of the third option.³⁶ As we know, the third option had been adopted, with the “Designated Area” formed on 18 February 1943.

Whatever could have happened and planned, we may not remain Eurocentric and allow ourselves to ignore a wider geopolitical milieu of Japan’s selective racial policies, which on the Chinese mainland alone, from 1937 to 1945, must have likely resulted in “as many as 14-20,000,000 Chinese deaths and 80-100,000,000 Chinese refugees.”³⁷

34 Guseva, Elizaveta, “Гуманность” Шанхайского гетто. Малоизвестную страницу Второй мировой войны открывают материалы из Архива МИД России, публикующиеся впервые (“Humanism” of Shanghai Ghetto. Russian Foreign Ministry Archives Materials, Published for the First Time, Open a Barely Known World War II Page), *Rodina* No. 1 (122), January 2022. See https://rg.ru/2022/01/23/publikuetsia-vpervye-gumannost-shanhajskogo-getto.html?fbclid=IwAR2gQse6RzbuRbaVluAZditvub-wKCq6LV-vUO6NU2iTwunp6eXhStVh_XA0 (Accessed on February 1, 2022).

35 Ibid. Ref. to АПИ РФ (Russian Federation Foreign Policy Archive). Ф. 0100. Оп. 31. П. 221. Д. 30. Л. 10-11

36 Ibid.

37 6. Shanghai as Microcosm and Mosaic of Eurasian Jewish Identities, 1850–1960 Shanghai as Microcosm and Mosaic of”. *Jewish Identities in East and Southeast Asia: Singapore, Manila, Taipei, Harbin, Shanghai, Rangoon, and Surabaya*, Berlin, München, Boston: De Gruyter Oldenbourg, 2015, pp. 129-176. <https://doi.org/10.1515>

INCOMING CABLE

SHANGHAI

APRIL 17 1941

1985
Beckelman
Beckelman

Q 134 SF AL 45/44
BN35 SHANGHAI APRIL 16 1941

DLT
JOINTDISCO NEW YORK

THIRTYSEVEN SEVENTY ODD VLADIVOSTOK STRANDEES HOLDING
SHANGHAI PERMITS CAN PROCEED HERE DIRECTLY SOVIET SHIP SAILING
SATURDAY PROVIDED TWENTY TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS TRANSMITTED
IMMEDIATELY CHASEBANK ACCOUNT INTOURIST SHANGHAI STOP
FORTYNINE BELONG REBGROUP STOP VIEW HIGHER JAPANESE MAINTENANCE
BELIEVE ONETIME EXPENDITURE JUSTIFIABLE ADVISE SOONEST

BECKELMAN

To The American Jewish Joint
Distribution Committee, Inc.
NEW YORK CITY

List of recent arrivals

Arrived by s/s "Arktika" on May 2nd, 1941

6 couples	-	12	persons
children	-	4	"
men	-	26	"
women	-	8	"
		<u>50</u>	persons

Hillel and Senta Mennes
Szymon and Fajga Kassel
Isaak and Chaja Sieger
Owsiej and Mala Repoport
with child Omoz Repoport
Mojze' and Eta Elbaum
with child Sara Elbaum
Wigdor and Hella Cyperstein
with children
Nathan and Batja Cyperstein
Izrael Bregman

APPENDIX

Hazit HaKavod Movement

Ben Zvi Institute for the Study of Jewish Communities of the East
Jerusalem Israel

International Online Conference

Evacuation, the Soviet Union and the Jews: Problems, Assessments and Evidence

December 21-22, 2021

December 21

10:00 – 10:45. **Opening of the conference**

Opening remarks

Dr. Alexander Berman, President of the Hazit HaKavod Movement

Greetings

Shlomo Gur, Associate Executive Vice-President, Claims Conference

Colette Avital, Head of the public organization “Center of organizations of Holocaust survivors in Israel”

Dr. Andrzej Gasiorovsky, Chairman of “The Helping Hand to Israel” Coalition

10:45-11:00 – Break

11:00 – 12:45. **First session: General aspects**

Moderator – Prof. John Goldlust (Australia)

Dr. Kiril Feferman (Israel). Evacuation, Jews and the USSR: Problems

Dr. Vadim Dubson (Israel). Two million evacuated Soviet Jews: True or fiction?

Discussion

12:45 – 13:15. Break

13:15 – 14:45. **Reports and testimonies of Holocaust refugee evacuations**

Victor Guin (Israel). Unsent letter to Ilya Ehrenburg

Igor Kogan (Israel). 1000 memories of Holocaust refugees on the website “Evacuation www.lost-childhood.com

Haya Tsadikova (Israel). From Lithuania to the Arctic Ocean

Gregory Nisenboim (Israel). On some aspects in the history of Jewish refugees

Yakov Liberman (Israel). And yet we are in Israel... (the story of the rescue from the nazis of the destruction of a Jewish boy)

14:45 – 16:00. Break

16:00 – 17:00. **Second session: Anti-Semitism**

Moderator – Dr. Zeev Levin (Israel)

Dr. Tamas Kende (Hungary). Contemporary perceptions and reports of anti-Semitism as socio-historical sources

Dr. Natalie Belsky (USA). The role of anti-Semitism in the survival strategy of evacuees

Discussion

17:00 – 17:15. Break

17:15 – 18:00. **Reports and testimonies of the evacuation of Holocaust refugees**

Yakov Basin (Israel). From Mozyr to Orel on its own

Gregory Reichman (Israel). Dani Berzin’s memories on the country “Evacuation”

Ilya Maizelis (Israel). Memories of children of the war about besieged Leningrad and the evacuation (based on the book “So it was...”, St. Petersburg, 2021)

December 22

10:00 – 11:45. **Third session: Evacuation, migration and emigration**

Moderator – Dr. Markus Nesselrodt (Germany)

Prof. Yakov Zinberg (Japan). Passing through the USSR to Japan and beyond. Jewish refugees in 1940-41

Baron A.I., Chilikova E.V. (Kazakhstan). Studying Holocaust tragedy: Results and lacunae

Dr. Irina Rebrova (Germany). The fate of evacuated Jewish doctors to the North Caucasus: From the experience of working on the project “Remember us...”

Prof. Marina Potemkina (Russia). Cultural trauma of non-Holocaust Survivors: Returning home from evacuation

Discussion

11:45 – 12:00. Break

12:00 – 14:00. **Reports and testimonies of the evacuation of Holocaust refugees**

Dr. Avrum Scharnopolsky (Israel). Memories of the life of Polish Jews in the evacuation in Central Asia

Bertha Feinstein (Israel). The story of the rescue of Jewish children from the pioneer camp in Krapivts (Belarus)

Yakov Basin. Evacuation of population and equipment is one of the main reasons for the victory of the USSR in the Great Patriotic war

14:00 – 15:30. Break

15:30 – 16:45. **Fourth session: War and evacuation**

Moderator – Dr. Kiril Feferman

Dr. Leonid Terushkin (Russia). Correspondence between the front and the hinterland as a source for the study of the evacuation of Soviet Jews

Dr. Alexander Berman. Holocaust refugee testimonies as a historical source

Dr. Albert Kaganovich (Canada). Bitter years: Jewish refugees in orphanages, 1941-1945

Discussion

16:45 – 17:00. Break

17:00 – 17:45. **Round table “History, historiography and politics in the study of evacuation”**

Moderator – Dr. Kiril Feferman

Prof. Ilya Altman (Russia)

Dr. Alexander Berman

Dr. Zeev Levin

17:45 – 18:00. **Conclusion of the conference**

Dr. Alexander Berman, Prof. Ilya Altman, Dr. Kiril Feferman