

to Israel. He had presented his documents 2 years ago and had been refused. A year ago he went to Moscow to find out what happened to his application. He was arrested near the Netherlands Embassy and told he would be tried for hooliganism. The trial was a closed one, and only the verdict was published. Hantsis is married and has a daughter of 20 and a son 15. He is serving his sentence in a labor camp at Omutinsk in the Kiron District.

Leningrad: Boris Azernikov, a 26 yr. old dentist, was sentenced to 3 yrs. and a 1/2 in a strict regime labor camp for "anti-soviet activities and membership in anti-soviet organizations."

Azernikov's harassment by the KGB began during the summer of 1970. His room was searched at the time of the arrests of the Leningrad group at Smolny airport, but he was not interned until 2 weeks later. The KGB released him but kept him under surveillance during the summer and fall of 1970, calling him in for questioning no less than 25 times. He appeared as a defence witness at both Leningrad trials, although warned by the KGB that this could result in his own arrest.

On the morning of August 10th, the KGB searched his room. They confiscated a book of poems by Bialik, a Hebrew calendar, and a copy of a letter by a group of Jews protesting a denial of exit visas. Azernikov was one of the signers of the letter. His arrest and conviction stem from the search and his possession of these items.

PLEASE WRITE TO HIS FAMILY: Paul naumovich Yankelson (father), Pastia Abromovna Yankelson (mother), and Lubov Paulivna Yankelson (sister). Kalinin, 15 Volnovo Novgoroda St. apt. 1 USSR. LETTERS OF PROTEST OVER HIS TREATMENT should be sent to: A.K. Varsobin, Chief of Reception Room, Leningrad region, C.P.S.U. Office of Lawyer's Association, Leningrad, USSR.

Kovna, Lithuania: The Jewish cemetery in this town was vandalized by unknown persons on the night of Oct. 15. More than 200 tombstones were overturned and broken, including those from WWII.

Moscow: The smallest of the three remaining synagogues here has been ordered closed by the authorities, effective the first of this month. There is no immediate information on the official reason for the closing, although reports have reached New York indicating the Soviet authorities were making it difficult for another synagogue to be established here.

Now closed is the Cherkizovoyo synagogue at 70 Lemontov Street, which held approximately 100 worshippers. It has not had a rabbi since the last one died several years ago. (There are currently six rabbis for the 3 million Jews in the Soviet Union).

Minsk: Arkady Levin, a Minsk Jew, has renounced his Soviet citizenship as a result of his unsuccessful efforts to obtain an emigration visa for Israel. He had been promised one upon deposit of 500 rubles. After paying the money he was called to the Ministry of Interior where he was threatened and thrown out. Also in Minsk a hunger strike was staged by 20 Jews because of refusals to have their visa applications reviewed.

AROUND THE WORLD: Jerusalem. The Knesset expressed concern over the health of Sylva Zalmanson whose family is staging a hunger strike to draw world attention to her plight following reports of deterioration of her health.

London: The United World Committee for the repatriation of Soviet Jews announced a vigil for Soviet Jewry this month with cooperation of Jewish groups in the U.S., Britain, France, Belgium, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Italy, Latin America, and Canada.