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Pictured above, American Bar Association President Eugene Thomas toasts Igor Karpetz, Vice-President of the ASL, and other participants at the ABA-ASL Seminar held at Dartmouth College, September, 1986.

Earlier, Karpetz and his Soviet colleagues had engaged in dialogue with the ABA on human rights. Following are examples of that dialogue:

"We have never incarcerated to mental hospitals people who were not indeed ill." ASL Vice-President Igor Karpetz, tour "leader".

"It is purely illegal for the (Communist) party to tell a judge what to do." Vasily Vlasikhin, ASL tour "escort".

"You claim that people who hold certain ideas are persecuted. That is not true." ASL member Igor Torgashev.

"We (in the USSR) have a situation where a person can freely emigrate." ASL Vice-President Igor Karpetz.

"I am not qualified to respond to that (a question on Afghanistan). I just teach law." Unidentified woman law professor and ASL member.

-More-

"I don't know of any concrete case of interference in a case by the Communist party." Vladimir I. Pospeyev, Moscow judge and ASL member.

"The procurator's (prosecutor's) office is actually pretty close to the ombudsman in other European countries." Vasily A. Vlasikhin.

"Political trials do not exist in our country." Igor K. Torgashev, ASL member.

"The Association of Soviet Lawyers is mutually pledged to advance the rule of law in the world." The ABA-ASL Declaration of Cooperation.

THE LAST FALSEHOOD IS THE ONE YOU CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT. JOIN US IN OPPOSING THE ABA-ASL DECLARATION OF COOPERATION. VOTE TO ABROGATE IT AT THE 1988 ABA ANNUAL MEETING, TORONTO, CANADA, AUGUST 8, 1988.

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WHAT IS THE ASSOCIATION OF SOVIET LAWYERS (ASL)?

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Dr. Yuri Yarin-Agaev

- The ASL is "the energetic sponsor of a stream of vicious libels against the defenders of human rights." (Morris B. Abram, Esq., President, Council of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations, and Chairman, National Conference on Soviet Jewry)

- The ASL is "the most prominent official sponsor and publisher of anti-Semitic material throughout the USSR." (Union of Councils for Soviet Jews)

- The ASL is "perhaps the most sophisticated anti-Semitic organization in the world." (Bay Area Council on Soviet Jewry)

- "The actual purpose of the ASL is to conduct propagandistic actions for the purpose of disinforming international public opinion." (Dina Kaminskaya and Konstantin Simis, former Soviet defense attorneys)

- "If there's anything in the world that is as close to or even maybe worse than the Goebbels propaganda ministry, it's the ASL." (U.S. District Court Judge Frank Kaufman, Member of the ABA Steering Committee on ABA-ASL Seminars)

- "These are not lawyers." (Morris B. Abram, Esq.)

- The ASL is "the most reprehensible professional organization on the face of the earth." (Harvard Law School Professor Alan Dershowitz)

- "Samuil Ziv [Vice-President of the ASL] . . . is nothing more than the equivalent of an officer of the Ku Klux Klan." (Morris B. Abram, Esq.)

- ASL propaganda is "worse than Hitler ever authored." (Judge Frank Kaufman)

- The Association of Soviet Lawyers is "pledged to advancing the rule of law in the world." (The ABA-ASL Declaration of Cooperation, now in effect between the American Bar Association and the Association of Soviet Lawyers)



A group protests yesterday outside the Westin Hotel, where the Soviet justice minister, Alexander Sukarev, addressed an American Bar Association meeting. Globe staff photo. Tom Herde

Soviet official says USSR is making fundamental changes in legal system

By Michael D. Nolan
Contributing Reporter

The Soviet minister of justice yesterday told an American Bar Association group at the Westin Hotel that legal reforms under way in his country will give greater freedom to minorities, increase protection for the accused and augment the judiciary's independence.

"We are talking really about changes - basic, underlying - which will have real social repercussions, revolutionary changes," said the Russian minister, Alexander Sukarev, who spoke through an interpreter. Sukarev said his country wants to adopt "the better parts of bourgeois democracy."

Outside the hotel, nearly two dozen demonstrators picketed to protest repression of religious and ethnic minorities that they say has continued amid rhetoric of "glasnost" - or openness - since Mikhail S. Gorbachev became Soviet leader in 1985.

The demonstrators also opposed the ABA's ties to a Soviet lawyer's group that Sukarev

heads. Human rights groups maintain a two-year-old ABA agreement to hold functions with the Association of Soviet Lawyers lends legitimacy to an agency of Soviet propaganda.

Bar association leaders accept the activists' characterization of the Soviet group, but argue that the relationship allows the ABA to register objections to Soviet human rights policies.

Sukarev dominated nearly three hours of at-times strident discussion about human rights, religious freedom, immigration, criminal justice and legal procedure between a panel of six ABA members and five members of the Soviet lawyers' group.

The American lawyers devoted most of their remarks to objecting to Soviet practices, prompting repeated calls from Sukarev for discussion of the US legal system.

The Soviet group made few attempts to deny that abuses alleged by the ABA panel had taken place. Instead, the Soviets maintained that reforms had eradicated the source of criticism.

Responding to ABA panelist William H. Neukom, who alleged that accused criminals are often denied protections guaranteed by Soviet law, Sukarev said: "Somewhere, at some time, this happened. But your question was phrased in such a way as to suggest it is going on now. That's not even yesterday. That's the day before yesterday."

The discussion, which took

place before about 90 lawyers as part of a meeting of the ABA's governing board, became heated when panelist Walter H. Beckham Jr., ABA secretary-elect, said he was once turned away from an Easter service near Moscow by armed troops. Beckham then strongly criticized a Russian law prohibiting religious practices that seek to attract minors.

During the ensuing exchange, Vasily Vlashin, an expert on US and Canadian law, drew an American coin from his pocket and demanded to know why the legend "In God We Trust" was permitted despite this country's separation of church and state.

The chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, Morris B. Abram, who was present at yesterday's discussion, said the exchange illustrated the Soviet group was interested in improving the image of the Soviet legal system through association with the ABA rather than in making progress in the areas of human rights or legal procedure.

The purpose of the Soviet lawyers' group, Abram said, "is not to expand the rule of law. Whenever there was a procedural question they said, 'That's not our area. That's a government area.'"

Abram said he has not yet decided whether the ABA's ties with the Soviet group are appropriate. "The ABA did a good job of pursuing the issue. Yet the [Soviet group] is getting legitimacy it does not deserve," he said.

The Boston Herald

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ABA legitimizes Soviet 'law'

SHOULD the American Nazi Party be invited to join a holocaust memorial committee? Then why is the American Bar Association meeting with a group of Soviet lawyers to discuss human rights?

The ABA, which established formal ties with the government-controlled Association of Soviet Lawyers last year, is conducting a conference with members of the latter group, beginning yesterday and continuing through Saturday at the Westin Hotel in Boston.

ASL claims to be the Russian counterpart of the ABA. In reality, Soviet lawyers are minions of the state. Their first and foremost responsibility, particularly in cases involving political dissent, is to protect the interests of the Kremlin, rather than representing their clients.

Consider the credentials of the ASL delegation to the Boston symposium. Its membership includes the group's president, Alexander Sukharev, Minister of Justice of the Russian Republic (Can you keep a straight face?). Sukharev heads the vast apparatus that suppresses dissidents. Last April, he branded Ana-

toly Shcharansky a spy, and dismissed as patently false Western charges that Shcharansky had been imprisoned for his views.

Another delegate, Vasily Vlasikhin, is a KGB agent.

The ABA has deliberately excluded human rights activists from its meetings. (It wouldn't want to embarrass the commissars and secret police agents after all.) But the activists will be present nonetheless, protesting outside the hotel.

"Equal Justice Under Law." Those four words are carved on the pediment of the Supreme Court building in Washington and they make up more than just a pretty phrase. They represent hundreds of years of Western legal development. It is an ideal not always fulfilled, but one that we never stop trying to achieve. In the Soviet Union, the very idea of impartial justice is simply ridiculous.

By providing a forum for the Soviets, and turning a cold shoulder to their victims, the ABA does considerable damage to its reputation as an organization dedicated to individual liberty and the rule of law.

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"When the Son of Man Comes, There Is Liberty" — II Corinthians 3:17

Editorials

These are the views of The Phoenix Gazette as an institution, thus are not signed by an individual writer.

Warning to the West

Phoenix attorney Patience T. Huntwork doesn't look very dangerous. After all, what harm could a size-eight female do to the all-powerful Soviet state? The Kremlin, however, apparently fears the power of the ideas Huntwork would have brought with her to a human rights seminar in Moscow.

The conference is being held by the Soviet dissident group Press Club *Glasnost* despite harassment by authorities. Huntwork was refused permission to attend and to speak in behalf of Soviet Jews and other oppressed groups.

Doubtless, Huntwork was turned down because, together with Arizona attorneys Orest A. Jejna and William J. Wolf, she has led a national effort to abrogate an American Bar Association agreement with the Association of Soviet Lawyers.

The ASL is not an ABA counterpart. It was created by the Communist Party's Department of Agitation and Propaganda to promote Soviet foreign policy. Huntwork finds the ABA-ASL pledge to "advance the rule of law in the world" similar to striking a bargain with the Gestapo while the trains rolled to Auschwitz.

Historically, Soviet peace overtures have

ended in tactical losses for Western democracies. Charles de Gaulle's dreams of a united Europe ended in the 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia; Nixon-Kissinger *detente* won the Soviets expanded trade benefits during the 1970s; unfulfilled promises at the 1975 Helsinki Conference resulted in recognition of Communist domination in Eastern Europe and a permanently divided Germany. And while Jimmy Carter dithered about our "inordinate fear of communism" the Communists gobbled up Ethiopia and Afghanistan.

In December 1987, on the eve of the Reagan-Gorbachev summit, security police broke up a human rights demonstration in Moscow and roughed up an American journalist. Huntwork reports that four of the dissidents who were on their way to Moscow to take part in the *Glasnost* conference were arrested.

These events make a more eloquent statement about the gap between Soviet reality and Gorbachev's words than anything even the articulate Huntwork could have said had she been permitted to go to Moscow.

(article does not mention Jewish emigration)

AMERICANS AND SOVIETS TALK

Stuart Bratesman/Dartmouth College



Weyman Lundquist and Vasily Vlasihin

* claimed credit for Jan. 1 1987 emigration regulations in USSR

A group of 20 ABA members, including President Robert MacCrate and President-elect Robert Raven, recently travelled to the Soviet Union to discuss human rights issues with representatives of their legal system and to see what the future holds for the rights of Soviet citizens under the reforms of glasnost.

The lawyers, who represented all parts of the American legal system including professors and judges, spent nine days touring the country and exchanging thoughts and ideas with Soviet lawyers.

Amid criticism in the United States from politicians and newspapers for talking to the Soviets, the group arrived in Moscow on Sept. 1.

After meeting with the Moscow Regional College of Advocates and the Moscow College of Advocates and with the chief judge of a District People's Court, the delegation watched part of the proceedings in a criminal case.

In the seminar sessions that followed, the group met with more than 50 representatives of the Russian legal system from throughout the U.S.S.R. to discuss their views of both legal systems.

During the opening address, ABA President MacCrate called for in-

creased understanding between the two countries and frank discussion of the restrictions of rights of individuals in the U.S.S.R.

He also asked for an open discussion of all aspects of the legal systems in both countries, reiterated the need for change, and emphasized the challenge to Soviet lawyers at this time to address these issues.

Later, the groups discussed human rights concerns in panel form with one person from each side presenting a topic. The dialogue covered a wide range of subjects, including reforms in the legal systems in both countries and the definitions of human rights and civil rights.

Vasily Vlasihin of the U.S.S.R. Institute of United States and Canadian Studies, and Weyman Lundquist, the ABA organizer of the seminar, moderated the discussion.

"While we have differences," Lundquist said in his address, "we can learn from these and if you come to understand our concerns you will understand us better."

During the discussions, comparisons of the two systems showed some similarities. The advantages and the alleged corruptions of both sides were debated and openly discussed, in-

cluding important civil rights issues.

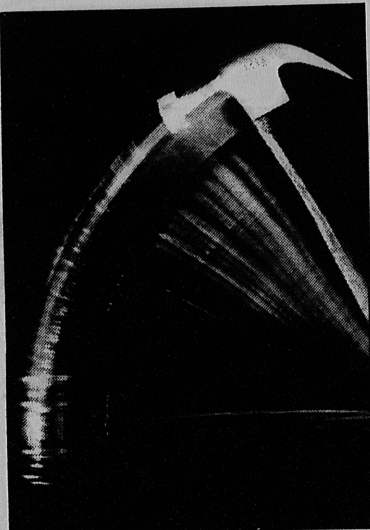
According to Lundquist, the Soviets were more open than expected in answering questions about the peculiarities and problems that bog down their system.

He said that the Russian and American lawyers spoke candidly amongst themselves, comparing their experience with the law and their lives in general.

After the seminar sessions in Moscow, the group visited Kiev, Leningrad and Tbilisi, where they spoke with more lawyers and discussed what the attorneys in each country deal with in daily practice.

Also, the lawyers went to more trials in the other cities and saw their Russian counterparts in action. During the trials, the Americans spoke to local lawyers and were introduced to some of the nuances of the Russian courts.

In Leningrad, the group spoke about specific reforms in Soviet law concerning criminal law representation. Currently, suspects are not provided counsel throughout the entire legal process. A new law, scheduled to go into effect on Jan. 1, 1988, would allow earlier representation. According to Lundquist, most lawyers with



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News Update

whom the group spoke advocated a change toward a system of guaranteed counsel throughout a suspect's case.

On their final day in the Soviet Union, MacCrate and Raven visited the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Republic. Later that day, they visited the Kremlin and met with Lev N. Tolkunov, the chairman of the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet. During their meeting they discussed not only legal issues, but also problems that the U.S.S.R. and the United States face in economic and social sectors.

The ABA participants expressed hope for the future of Soviet-American relations and the development of greater respect for individual human rights. According to MacCrate, he and Alexander Sukharev, the minister of justice of the Russian Republic, agreed to "try in the future similarly to coordinate leadership visits and seminars, as well as observations of judicial proceedings." —Tom Egler

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Balanced Fund	\$ 42,199,266	\$ 12.59
Real Estate Fund	\$ 10,771,361	\$ 10.75
Other GRA's	\$469,810,180	8.44%*
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,110,627,178	

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