

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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DOLE URGES STATE DEPARTMENT TO INTERCEDE ON BEHALF
OF ISRAELI CITIZEN AWAITING TRIAL IN NATIVE RUSSIA

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole today urged Secretary of State George Shultz to intercede on behalf of Russian dissident Alexander Yakir, now facing a Soviet trial. Yakir is attempting to emigrate to Israel along with his family. Senator Dole, who has worked for years on behalf of the Yakir family, made his request in a letter that was hand-delivered to the State Department by a member of his staff this morning.

"I know that Rabbi Mark Levin of Kansas City has been working long and hard on this matter," said Senator Dole. "I am pleased to continue to help in this grave concern. Right now, we just want to prevent the trial from taking place."

Following is the text of Senator Dole's letter:

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I wish to bring to your attention the plight of Alexander Yakir, a citizen of the state of Israel and a resident of Moscow, who will be brought to trial in the Soviet Union on August 2, 1984.

Alexander Yakir, whose father Evgeny Morisovich and wife Rimma have been seeking permission to emigrate to Israel since 1970, has been living primarily outside of Moscow working as an archaeological assistant. Because he was afraid the authorities would use the ground of "secrecy" for refusing him permission to emigrate, he chose not to enlist in the Army. As a result, the prosecution will attempt to prove that at and/or to the time of his arrest in June, 1984, Alexander Yakir had violated Article 80 of the R.S.F.S.R. Criminal Code, which in paragraph 1 punishes evasion of regular calls to active military service by a term of one to three years imprisonment.

According to Rabbi Mark Levin, of the Temple Congregation B'Nai Jehudah in Kansas City, who has been extremely active in helping the entire Yakir family to emigrate, the Colombian Ambassador to Austria, Bruce Gustavo Rodriguez has expressed a willingness to intercede on behalf of Alexander Yakir. Ambassador Rodriguez, upon the request of an American government official, will meet with the Soviet Ambassador to Austria who will convey our concern over the plight of Alexander Yakir to his government.

It would be my hope that you could explore, through your good offices, the most appropriate manner in which to include Ambassador Rodriguez in an attempt to obviate Alexander Yakir's trial date of August 2.

Because of the time consideration and the urgency of this matter, anything that you could do on behalf of Alexander Yakir would be most appreciated by me and the Yakirs' many friends in the United States.

Mr. Secretary, my best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature of Bob Dole in black ink.

BOB DOLE
United States Senate