

Moiseyev Ballet And You

On August 20, San Franciscans will have the privilege of watching the talented members of the Moiseyev Dance Group perform at the Civic Auditorium.

Meanwhile, back in the Soviet Union, there are many artists and performers who are not permitted to exercise their artistic talents. They are Jews who have requested permission to emigrate, a simple human right, and have so far been refused. Fiodor Abramovich, of Vilnius, has had his request in since April of 1969. The life of the "refuseniks" is not very pleasant, to say the least. They are normally deprived of work — which, in the case of artists, is doubly oppressive.



Raab

Among others, the artistic refuseniks include: Mikhail Vigodsky, musician (Pereyaslavskaya St., Chernovtsy, Ukrainian SSR); Benedikt Flisfish, age 26, violinist (Aleksandri 4/33, Kishinev, Moldavian SSR); Eduard Boltyansky, musician (Klenovy Bulvar 4/26, Moscow, RSFSR); Stella B. Goldberg, age 43, pianist (Cherkozovskaya 8/7/72, Moscow, RSFSR); Mayor Gorbатов, age 43, violinist, (Taldomskaya 15/79); Alik Rabinovich, musician (Frunzenskaya Naberezhnaya 34/2, Moscow, RSFSR); Ida Gershman, musician (Lenina 70/7, Riga, Latvian SSR);

Menashe Stelmakh, musician, (Krasnoarmeiskaya 50/16, Riga, Latvian SSR); Fiodor Abramovich, age 30, singer (Daugelishkio 24/1, Vilnius, Lithuanian SSR); Nonel Voronel, poet (Narodnovo Opolchenia 45/103, Moscow, RSFSR); Mark Maier, painter (Latchika Pilotova 62/1/28, Moscow, RSFSR); Yuri Kalendaryv, sculptor, (Pushkin Lenina 26/2, Leningrad, RSFSR); Feliks Kamov-Kandel, scriptwriter (Krasnoarmeiskaya 21/12, Moscow, RSFSR).

Kamov-Kandel recently joined some other Jewish writers and artists in Moscow (Mikhail Suslov, Yevgency Baras and Vitaly Rubin) in a statement to Laurence Olivier, among others — thanking them for their help in finally getting permission for the Panovs to leave, and pointing out that there were many others left behind. "It seems to us," they wrote, "that such a humane approach is inseparable from culture, and culture itself cannot stand without humanity. The Panovs are to be allowed to leave. We remain, however, alone in our creative muteness."

The organized Jewish community of San Francisco welcomes the cultural exchange which the Moiseyev Ballet represents, and is opposed to any disruption of that event. The organized Jewish community feels strongly that the public spotlight must be kept on the plight of Soviet Jews. When the Iron Curtain was high and invulnerable, when there was no cultural exchange, no amount of American or world public protest was able to affect the fate of Soviet Jews.

It is ironic that the performance of the Moiseyev Dance Group almost coincides with the memorial date of Aug. 12, 1952, when 24 Jewish poets were murdered in the Soviet Union's Lubianka prison. Between 1948 and 1953, 238 writers, 87 painters, 99 actors and 19 musicians were slain because they were Jews. None of them could be saved. There are currently about 150,000 Soviet Jews who have been refused permission to emigrate so that they can live as Jews. Most of them are jobless, many constantly harassed, a number in prison.

But there is hope, as there was *not* in 1952, that many of them, and others will survive, and will eventually get out. However, they will not get out, either if the Iron Curtain fully descends again, or if the world is silent. Therefore, major Jewish agencies are opposed to any disruption of cultural exchange events, and are insistent on taking the occasion of those events to publicly trumpet concern about the fate of Jewish artists and others in the Soviet Union.

Among other things, there will be a Dance for Freedom on the Polk Street edge of the Civic Plaza at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, August 20, just before the first Moiseyev performance. It will be conducted under the auspices of the Bay Area Council for Soviet Jewry and the Soviet Jewry Action Group, with the support of the organized Jewish community through the JCRC, and other ethnic communities. You will want to come and lend your support to this peaceful public-spotlighting of the problem. You may even want to send a letter to one of the artists whose names and addresses are listed above (postage 21 cents), to let them know that you are going to bet at the Civic Plaza.