

Ex-prisoner calls for Western pressure

By JANE DE VIRGILIO
Of the Emerald

After 60 years of government suppression and strong anti-Semitism, most Soviet Jews have lost belief in their heritage and their faith, a Soviet dissident said Friday.

Since chances of immigration are impossible, Soviet Jews are "caught in a high-pressure trap," where they must conform to survive, Edward Kuznetsov said.

Kuznetsov's University talk on the plight of Jews in the Soviet Union was part of a one-week tour of the United States.

A citizen of Israel, Kuznetsov was one of five immigrants who were swapped in 1979 by former Pres. Carter for a defense computer and two Soviets

convicted of spying in the United States.

A registered Jew and student protestor, he was sentenced to 15 years in Soviet labor camps in the first Leningrad Trial for attempting to steal a Soviet plane and immigrate to Israel.

Kuznetsov served nine years before his release. During his captivity, he carried on a hunger strike for 47 days to protest his treatment and denial of visits by his wife.

Kuznetsov said he believes pressure from the West can help he Soviet Jews and affect Soviet government policy.

"The strength of the Soviet Union is a consequence of the West's weakness. Moscow understands only strong positions. If they get strong reactions from this administration, they'll be cautious.

"If relations deteriorate and attempts at detente stop, they will use this unfriendly situation as a political opportunity to aggress. Every religion is persecuted, but Jews are foremost," Kuznetsov said.

Americans can unite and participate in campaigns to understand the situation in the Soviet Union, he said.

"Demonstrate and put pressure on your government and on businesses which carry on relations with the U.S.S.R. without preconditions and enjoy huge profits," he said.

Unfortunately, Kuznetsov said, the number of dissenters in the Soviet Union is diminishing because repression is on the increase.

"There are now maybe two or three thousand, no more," he said.

There is a "constant tension and pressure" on the Soviet people, Kuznetsov said, because "they have no rights."

"Sixteen years is a big chunk of life to spend in prison, but there are others who would gladly do it to be released from the country."

The Soviet Union would "give in on immigration for more economic aid from the West" Kuznetsov said, but "their grain supply is in direct linkage with the abundance of their military weapons."

In this light, Brezhnev's proposal for renewed talks with the United States in his Feb. 23 speech to the Communist Party Congress is just a "tactics step," according to Kuznetsov.

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Ocean treaty could establish sea laws

By TOM VISOKY
Of the Emerald

Who owns the ocean's resources? And how should those resources be distributed among the world's nations?

These questions, and dozens like them, may be answered this year if the Law of the Sea Treaty is signed, Jim Blew of the United

Nations Association told an audience in the Ocean Symposium last week.

The treaty, which contains 302 articles and nine annexes, "covers the entire scope of ocean law," Blew said.

When the 10th Session of the Third Conference on the Law of the Sea convenes next week, delegates from more than 150 nations will try to complete the treaty that has undergone 20 years of negotiation.

Blew said it should be signed to prevent a pell-mell grabbing of the oceans by resource-hungry nations. He hailed the treaty as a welcome replacement for the mixture of principles governing the ocean's use during the last 400 years.

A country's territorial sea limit used to be determined by the range of its guns, but the advent

of long-range missiles has changed things, he said.

Under the treaty's provisions, coastal nations would hold sovereignty over a 12-mile territorial zone, and they would have exclusive rights to develop energy, mineral and fish resources inside a 200-mile "Exclusive Economic Zone." The waters outside the Exclusive Economic Zone would fall under the jurisdiction of The International Seabed Authority.

Representatives from various developed and underdeveloped nations would sit on the board of the ISA and would manage the resources in the International Zone as the "common heritage of mankind."

But, Blew said the actions of the delegates and special-interest groups at the conference don't always jibe with their idealistic rhetoric.

"All of the nations at the conference are acting in their own self-interest," he said. "It's not a question of altruism, it's strictly politics."

Blew said the establishment of the ISA was vigorously opposed by a number of multi-national corporations that want to mine the deposits of manganese-rich nodules scattered

on the sea bed. Under the treaty's terms, corporations would have to get a license from the ISA before they could prospect for nodules in the International Zone. They then would have to divide equally their discoveries with the ISA.

He likened the process to that of children splitting a candy bar — one breaks it, the other gets first choice of the pieces.

American corporations also objected to terms of the treaty that called upon the developed countries to share their ocean technology with developing countries, he said.

"The U.S. companies believe we are selling out by giving away our technology."

But Blew said corporate efforts to torpedo the treaty were stopped by the Pentagon. There, planners strongly support the treaty because it provides for the unhindered passage of warships and submarines through international straits, he said.

The United States would benefit most from the treaty, Blew said.

"We want to have assured access to mineral and oil resources."

Blew said the marine environment would benefit from the guidelines established in the treaty.

Those guidelines would enable the U.S. to set shipping standards, and oil tankers would no longer be able to avoid standards by sailing under "flags of convenience," he said.

An audience member said that environmentalists and Pentagon planners make rather "strange bedfellows." Said Blew: "Five years ago I'd never thought I'd sleep with a general."

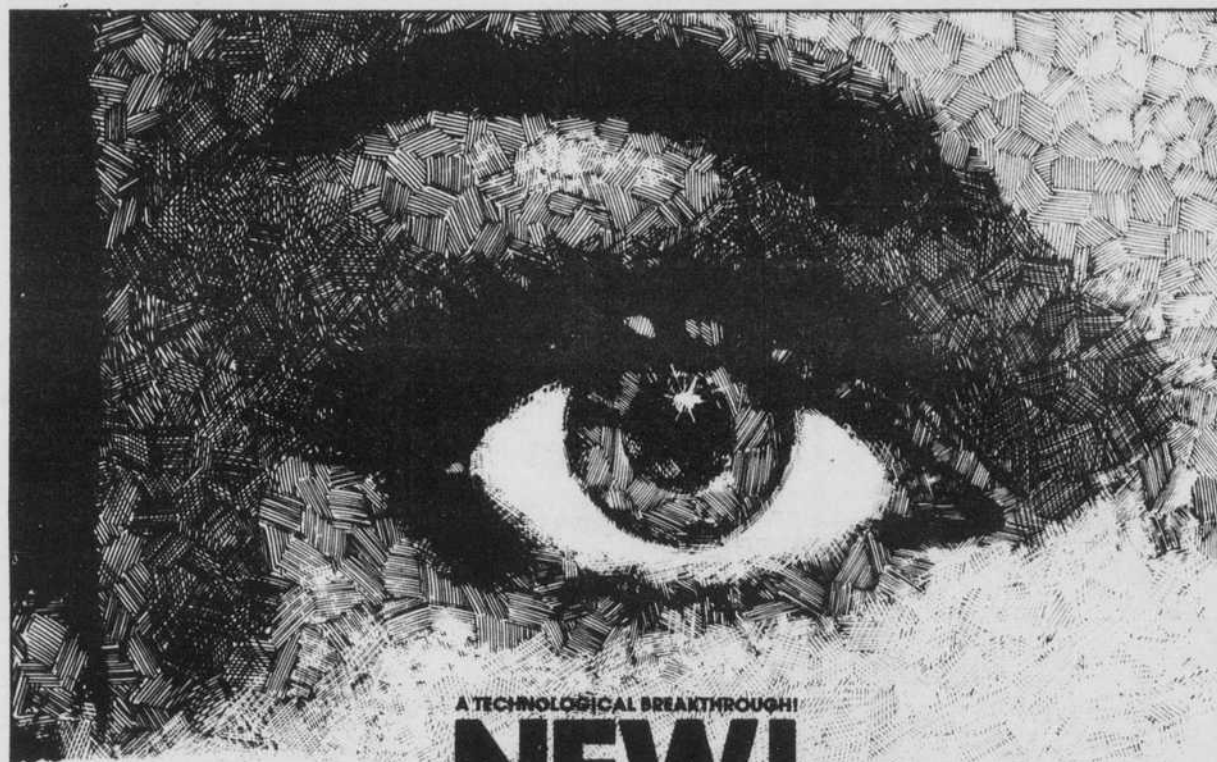


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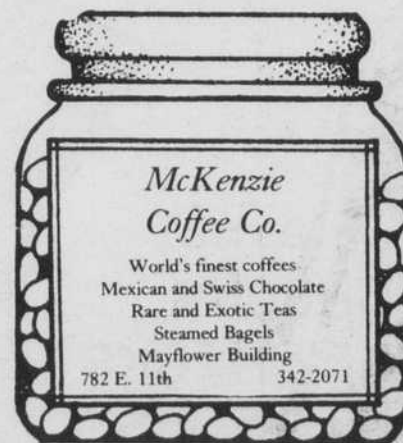
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