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Senate

VIKTOR BRAILOVSKY

Mr. TSONGAS. Mr. President, today marks another sad day for the human rights of Soviet Jewry. Viktor Brailovsky, doctor of cybernetics, went on trial in Moscow for allegedly violating section 190-1 of the Soviet Criminal Code. Article 190-1 provides:

The systematic circulation in oral form of fabrications known to be false, which defame the Soviet state and social system, and likewise, the preparation or circulation in written, printed or other form, of works of such content—shall be punished by deprivation of freedom for a term of up to three years, or by correctional tasks for a term of up to one year, or by a fine of up to 100 rubles.

It all sounds very proper. But, in fact, the only crime that Dr. Brailovsky committed was to be born a Jew and to seek freedom from the shackles of totalitarianism.

Mr. President, Dr. Brailovsky's case is not very different from the many thousands of cases of Soviet Jews who desire to immigrate to Israel. But during the past 9 years that he and his family have waited for exit visas, Dr. Brailovsky has not remained silent. Let me share with my colleagues some of the specifics of this case.

In October 1972, Viktor Brailovsky, along with his wife Irina and their two children, first applied to immigrate to Israel. As a result, both Viktor and Irina were fired from their prestigious scientific jobs. Their phone was disconnected and their mail service curtailed. Again and again since 1972, the Brailovsky family has been refused permission to immigrate on the grounds that Viktor

possessed secret scientific information. In 1976, after 4 long years of waiting, Viktor was given a verbal clearance to emigrate—but his wife, Irina, an applied mathematician, could not leave because allegedly she possessed state secrets. After a few agonizing months, Viktor decided to emigrate with one of his children and leave his wife and other child behind. In an act of typical capriciousness, the Soviet authorities then denied his visa on the grounds that the separation of his family would violate the Helsinki Final Act.

These continued denials of Viktor's most basic human rights left him undaunted. He became one of the founders of the samizdat (underground) journal, *Jews in the U.S.S.R.*, and served as editor for its last five issues—until it ceased publication in the summer of 1979. This nonpolitical journal was devoted exclusively to Jewish history and culture and served as an important source of information for Jews living in the Soviet Union.

In 1977, Viktor became worried that he and other unemployed Jewish scientists would fall too far behind in their fields. As a result, he organized the Moscow Sunday Seminar, which met every week in his flat. The Sunday Seminar consisted of a nonpolitical group of refuseniks who were dedicated to the advancement of scientific knowledge. On many occasions, they would invite visiting scholars to present scientific papers at their meetings for discussion by the participants.

The Soviets, however, do not allow such activities to continue for very long without responding. In April 1980, Viktor was arrested and told that he was being in-

investigated for his involvement with the publication, Jews in the U.S.S.R. Although he was released, the harassment did not end. On November 13, 1980, just 2 days after the opening of the Madrid Conference, eight policemen arrived at the Brailovsky apartment with a search warrant and a warrant to take Viktor in for questioning. Irina insisted on accompanying her husband to the police station. After lengthy questioning, Viktor was able to tell her, before being led away, that he had been arrested, apparently for his involvement in Jews in the U.S.S.R.

Mr. President, recently a member of my staff returned from a private trip to the Soviet Union where he had the opportunity to meet a number of Soviet refuseniks. He learned firsthand what it means to be a Jew in the Soviet Union. The constant surveillance by the KGB, the wiretaps, the censored mail, the lack of religious freedom, the problems in maintaining a job. But he also learned about the strength and the vitality of these people who live under such harsh physical and mental conditions. In addition, he met with Irina Brailovsky and learned firsthand of the mental anguish she has had to bear for the past 9 years.

Mr. President, it now appears that Soviet authorities will further respond to Viktor Brailovsky's activities by placing him in a labor camp for 3 long years. I call on all of my colleagues to join me in urging the Soviet authorities to reconsider the charges that have been brought against Dr. Brailovsky and to grant him and his family one of the most basic of all human rights—the right to emigrate to the country of their choice.●
