

Chronicle

Summaries of Events and Background Information

Campaign against Georgian musical *refuseniks*

"Phantom" is the name adopted by a group of musicians, mainly Jewish and Georgian Catholic believers, who give private performances of classical music and songs; they chose this name, as one of the members has explained, because all the players and singers are *refuseniks* and "have therefore become phantoms, insubstantial spirits without much hope of leaving and without rights for as long as they remain."

The Phantom ensemble has been performing regularly in homes in and around the Georgian capital of Tbilisi since late 1984, and several of the musicians have been involved in the defence of human rights and religious freedom for a decade or more. Their involvement in the Georgian Helsinki Monitoring Group has led to prison sentences in the past for three members.

Three of the Phantom ensemble are prominent Jewish *refuseniks* and activists. Fifty-eight-year-old Roman Tsinman from Dnepropetrovsk is the group's musical director; he has been a *refusenik* since 1979. The Goldshtein brothers, Isai and Grigori, aged 47 and 53 respectively, from Tbilisi, were both founding members of the Georgian Helsinki Monitoring Group in 1977. They are computer engineers by training, but since their application for permission to emigrate, first submitted in 1971, and their subsequent attachment to the emigration and human rights movement in Georgia, they have had difficulty in finding work in their field. In 1978 Grigori was arrested and sentenced to one year's labour camp on charges of "parasitism". On his release he

immediately re-applied for an exit visa. He was able to find work, though not in his own speciality, but lost this job in April 1982. Due to the protests which followed, however, from Grigori himself and from fellow-activists, he was reinstated in June. The brothers continued to be active over the next six months, both in a legal campaign for jobs appropriate to their training, and in the Helsinki Group's work of documenting cases of violation of religious and human rights. In early 1983 they were each given posts in their own fields of specialism, at the Ministry of Food in Tbilisi. This was not the end of the issue, however. In late 1983 there was an attempt at a false incrimination involving Grigori Goldshtein and another Jewish *refusenik* at his place of work; they were both accused of fraud. Grigori succeeded in disproving the charges but, soon after this incident, the authorities' attention diverted to his brother. Isai, at the age of 46, was called up for reserve army service for two months. Well aware that army service is frequently used as a pretext for refusing exit visas to Jews and other applicants who are said to have had access to "classified" or "secret" information, Isai agreed to do the reserve duty on condition that he be given work which would not later be placed in this "security" category. After being threatened with criminal charges, Isai was eventually exempted from the call-up but told that his application for an exit visa would not be reviewed until 1987. Grigori, who until his original application for a visa worked in a senior post at the Mendeleev Institute of Metrology in Tbilisi, was also told that his

work there had been of a "security risk" type and that this categorisation would apply until at least 1986.

Two other members of the Phantom group, the Gudava brothers, have also been active in the defence of human rights for some years. Eduard, 30, and Tengiz, 32, both Catholics, are members of the Georgian Helsinki Monitoring Group, and in 1978 were sentenced to prison terms of three and four years respectively on charges of black market trading (which they denied).

Extensive documentation which recently reached Keston College includes a biographical résumé of the activities of the brothers and their mother Raisa Ivanovna Uvarova, based on their 794-page *samizdat* book, "*Criminals*" — *the Story of one Soviet Family*. Their father, Zurab Gudava, was sacked during a "purge" in 1975 and died of a heart attack five years later while both his sons were serving their terms in labour camps. After their release, as part of their attempt to obtain permission to emigrate, Eduard, Tengiz and Raisa succeeded in entering the British Embassy in Moscow and presenting their case to British diplomats in March 1982. Although in the following months they observed a slight decrease in the pressures brought to bear upon them by the Soviet authorities, they seemed to be no closer to their goal of emigration and, later in the year, they renounced their Soviet citizenship.

During 1985 there has been an intensified campaign against the Phantom group members. On 4 April Isai Goldshtein (violinist), Marina Tertsián (singer and pianist), Eduard Gudava (singer) and other members were summoned to the KGB and warned of the danger of their "anti-Soviet" activities. Eduard was threatened with a charge of "parasitism". Nevertheless, plans were made for a concert to be performed in Moscow in August to mark the tenth anniversary of the Helsinki Accords. On 13 May the Gudava brothers accompanied their mother to the airport at Tbilisi. She intended to fly to Moscow and deliver various documents: a message of greeting from the Georgian Helsinki Monitors to the Ottawa Conference on Human Rights; a statement by them about the grave ill-health of Merab Kostava, a founder-member of the Helsinki Monitoring Group in Georgia, who is currently serving his second consecutive lengthy prison term; an appeal from mem-

bers of the Phantom ensemble to western musicians to join them in their Helsinki anniversary concert. However, Raisa was detained and searched at the airport, and the documents were confiscated together with her internal passport. While the family were at the airport, a search at the brothers' home had begun. It continued after their return and lasted in all for seven and a half hours. Over a hundred items were confiscated, including cuttings from western newspapers, Bibles, religious books, a letter from the Georgian Helsinki Monitoring Group, a statement by Phantom, photographs, copies of the family autobiography, two typewriters and multiple copies of a brochure by Tenghiz Gudava about materialism entitled *The Primacy of Matter and its End Results*. On the basis of the confiscated materials, charges under Article 206-1 of the Georgian Criminal Code (190-1 of the Russian Code — "slandering the Soviet state and social system") were brought against all three members of the family on 15 May. On 29 May the charges against Tengiz were changed to the more severe Article 71 (70 in the Russian Code — "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda", which carries a possible term of seven years' imprisonment and five years' internal exile). This was on the basis of his philosophical-ethical brochure. On the same day, four American musicians who had joined the Phantom ensemble for a concert on 26 May were detained in Yerevan and expelled from the USSR.

After one of the routine monthly Phantom concerts (which in this case was attended by a Second Secretary from the US Embassy in Moscow) one of the musicians, Svetlana Kurdiani, was beaten up in the street by "unknown persons" in an attempt to persuade her to relinquish all contact with Phantom. She was taken to hospital with damaged liver and kidneys. Kurdiani is an active Catholic, and she had been collecting signatures from her fellow-believers on an appeal on behalf of the Gudava brothers.

On 28 June, there were searches at the homes of nine Phantom members. The Goldshteins, the Gudavas, Raisa Uvarova, Roman Tsinman, Marina Tertsián, Svetlana Kurdiani and Emmanuil Tvaladze were all detained for several hours of interrogation about literature and documentation which had been confiscated and about their musical activities. Two of the de-

tainees, Isai Goldshtein and Tengiz Gudava, were told to return to the KGB offices on 1 August, bringing clothes suitable for taking to prison. The whereabouts of Kurdiani and Tertsian have not been known since these house searches took place.

Isai Goldshtein did not report to the KGB on 1 August on the grounds that he had not received an official written summons. When his brother Grigori went to the offices (probably to convey this message) he was warned that the confiscated materials and the brothers' membership of Phantom amounted to ample grounds for criminal

charges against them both. Latest reports indicate that the Goldshteins and most other Phantom members are under constant surveillance but are not currently under arrest. However, Emanuil Tvaladze and Tengiz Gudava face charges of "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda", and Eduard Gudava was arrested in early June on charges of "hooliganism" apparently for displaying in public an "anti-KGB banner". On 20 January 1986 he was sentenced to four years' labour camp.

CAROLYN BURCH

Russian Orthodox scholar criticises Soviet anti-semitism

On 9 September 1983 Ivan Fyodorovich Martynov, Russian Orthodox historian and scholar, addressed an Open Letter to the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, renouncing his title as Candidate [Doctor — *Ed.*] of Pedagogical Sciences, in protest at growing manifestations of anti-semitism in Soviet academic circles.

This stand against anti-semitism was taken against the background of Martynov's long and extensive involvement with unofficial Jewish cultural life in Leningrad and with Jewish academics in a professional context. The Open Letter renouncing his association with the Academy of Sciences was triggered, however, by the appearance in the Leningrad paper, *Neva*, of an article by Lev Korneyev, a notorious anti-semitic writer and himself holder of the title Candidate of Historical Sciences, awarded to him by the same Presidium of the Academy of Sciences.

The article, entitled "To Whom is this Profitable?", claimed that "Zionists" have shown "a marked hostility to everything that is Russian . . . expressed in particular in various attempts to blacken our national history, our cultural heritage . . . in ignoring and misinterpreting the words of Russian writers." In response to such accusations, Martynov wrote in his Open Letter:

The appearance of this article in the pages of a magazine where a number of my own works have been published prompts me to make the following statement: I am a Russian bibliog-

rapher and historian of the Russian Orthodox religion, a person who was brought up in a Russian home and for whom Russian culture is at the same time my life's work and the subject that gives meaning to my existence. From the beginning of my studies up to the present time I have worked closely with specialists in Slavic sciences who are "of Jewish origin" [Korneyev's phrase], some living in the USSR, some living abroad and some who emigrated from the USSR on Israeli invitations. I have always been aware of their deepest respect for my great people, for its history, life and culture.

He then listed cases of Jewish academics with whom he had worked for many years, and for whom he expressed his admiration. Among these were several whose work is now no longer published or even acknowledged by Soviet academic bodies because they have emigrated from the USSR.

The author of the article in *Neva*, Lev Korneyev, is one of the Soviet Union's most prolific and virulent anti-semitic writers. His book *The Class Essence of Zionism*, published in 1983, is so blatantly anti-semitic that its publication was the cause of some embarrassment even among members of the government-sponsored Anti-Zionist Committee. Besides making the parallels between Zionism and Fascism which are increasingly common in Soviet anti-Zionist propaganda, Korneyev also makes, for example, the following attack: