



Black and Jewish Communities Unite: Renewing the Voting Rights Act and Strengthening Bonds

In 1982, a group of concerned citizens from Atlanta's Black and Jewish communities united to campaign for the renewal of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. This drive to renew one of the most important pieces of civil rights legislation in U.S. history reinvigorated the bond between the two communities. John Lewis, an American civil rights activist and politician, marched alongside members of the Jewish community and helped establish the Atlanta Black-Jewish Coalition. This coalition aimed to ensure that open dialogue and partnership between the Black and Jewish communities would continue in Atlanta. Today, the American Jewish Committee's Atlanta Black/Jewish Coalition continues to serve as a central platform for education, outreach, and advocacy.

COALITION TO FREE SOVIET JEWS
Representing concerned organizations in New York City, Long Island, Westchester, Rockland and Bergen Counties
8 West 40th Street, Suite 1510, New York, NY 10018 (212) 354-1316

MEMORANDUM

TO: Directors and Presidents of Organizations
FROM: Alan Pesky, Chairman
Zeeshy Schnur, Executive Director
RE: Summit III
DATE: November 4, 1987

As you know, a date for the summit meeting between Mr. Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev has finally been set for December 7th-9th. The Washington mobilization for Soviet Jewry will be held on Sunday, December 6th from 1-4 PM. (Formation for the march will begin at 12 noon). The event is being organized by national and local agencies. Though the mobilization effort is nationwide, it is expected that New Yorkers will make up the vast majority of people at the demonstration. Preparations are already underway and with your help we anticipate an outpouring of tens of thousands to join us in Washington. There is much work and planning to be done in four weeks' time for this to be a successful event.

The only possible way that we will achieve our goal of a large turnout is if the New York area is inundated with flyers and information about the event. Enclosed is an interim flyer which we hope you will reproduce and distribute as a start to your mobilization campaign for Summit III. You will be sent details in the upcoming days and weeks about transportation to the event as well as other information which will help you organize your community.

We ask that you check your organizational and community calendars to ensure that there are no events scheduled shortly before, and including December 6th, which may conflict with getting people to go to Washington for the rally. There should be no issue more critical to the Jewish community at this time than showing its support for Soviet Jewry when Mr. Gorbachev visits the United States.

Additionally, we hope you will call our office to arrange for speakers to speak to your group about mobilization at any upcoming meetings you know of, whether large or small. Materials should also be distributed at these events.

WE ARE COUNTING ON YOUR HELP TO ORGANIZE A SUCCESSFUL MARCH AND RALLY ON DECEMBER 6TH. It is imperative that we have a large turnout for this event so that the refuseniks know we care, the Reagan administration is reminded that the issue of human rights must be brought to the bargaining tables, and that General Secretary Gorbachev knows that the West will never be silent as long as Jews remain oppressed in the Soviet Union.

We thank you in advance for your help and support. Please call the office should you have any questions.

enclosed: interim Summit III flyer

