

Soviet aliya will continue 'if pressure maintained'



IN MINSK—Colonel Noam Olshansky, left, General Yefim Davidovich and Leon Charney.

By **SRAYA SHAPIRO**
Jerusalem Post Reporter

There is hope for the continued emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union, if pressure is maintained on their behalf.

This view was expressed to *The Jerusalem Post* this week by Mr. Leon H. Charney, a New York lawyer who acts as liaison between the Jewish community of Indiana and Senator Vance Hartke.

He was able to breach the issue of Jewish emigration to Israel with the mysterious man who issues the exit permits in the USSR, Andrei Verein. It was in Moscow on September 25. Mr. Charney was a member of the delegation sent by Senator Hartke to discuss trade relations. The Senator is in favour of giving the USSR "most favoured nation" status. The delegation called on Mr. Verein because Senator Hartke's administrative assistant, Jacques Leroy, said, "The American people attach a great deal of importance to free emigration." Two members of the American consular office in Moscow were present at the interview, which was also attended by Mr. Verein's deputy, Colonel Ovchinnikov.

Mr. Verein, however, was not very encouraging, Mr. Charney told *The Jerusalem Post* here this week. "He said that 95 per cent of the applications had been granted, and even those turned down would, he promised be reconsidered.

According to Mr. Verein, some 200 persons who were on the "Kissinger list" had received permits,

200 others have never applied, and some have died. The Moscow engineer Tyomkin, "about whom there was a lot of publicity in the West," was given an exit permit, but his divorced wife and his daughter refuse to go, and Tyomkin refuses to leave without his daughter. (The fact is that Tyomkin's daughter had been kidnapped and placed in a school far away from Moscow after she had declared her wish to go to Israel — J.P.)

Mr. Charney had been dealing with Russian Jews on Senator Hartke's behalf for quite a long time. One of the Senator's proteges, is General Yefim Davidovich, of Minsk — a hero of the Red Army who has been harassed by the KGB because of his remarks about Soviet anti-Semitism. At the beginning of the year, Davidovich, who has an heart ailment, was committed for trial for "slander of the USSR" but the trial never took place. However, Davidovich has not been able to secure an exit visa. "I met him in Minsk," Mr. Charney said, "He looks weary, but he will not relinquish his struggle to go to Israel."

Senator Hartke, Mr. Charney said, was about to present Congress with a bill which he tentatively refers to as "the international trade pact for peace." The idea behind it is to establish a "foodstuffs bank" on which member-countries could draw what they need under certain conditions. Humanitarian practice should be one of these conditions, according to Mr. Charney.