

STATEMENT FOR SPECIAL ORDER  
REPRESENTATIVE LES AuCOIN  
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
July 20, 1982

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address a problem that has gradually worsened in recent months. The problem of Soviet emigration and, particularly, the problem of Ida Nudel a Soviet Jew living in limbo while she is refused an exit visa.

According to the Council for Soviet Jews, Mr. Speaker, only 182 Jews were permitted to leave the U.S.S.R. in June. This is the lowest monthly figure since the early 1970's; a 96 percent drop from June 1979 figures.

So it seems particularly appropriate that this month we should recognize this International Solidarity Day with Ida Nudel, a brave woman who has been trying to leave the Soviet Union for the last eleven years.

As soon as Ida Nudel applied for her first exit visa, she lost her job. She has been subjected to government harassment, social ostracism, KGB arrest, and finally, imprisonment in Siberia under the harshest conditions.

In spite of the threats to her mental and physical well-being, Ida Nudel continues her quest. A quest that the Soviet Union should not be reluctant to fulfill since they, too, are signatories of the Helsinki Accords of 1975.

Ida Nudel's plight today is not a happy one. Her sister and husband were allowed to emigrate to Israel in 1975. She has been denied work and a place to live. She is 52 years old, homeless, and under constant surveillance by the Soviet government.

Let us, then, observe this International Solidarity Day with this brave woman. She is more than just one person. She represents thousands like her who ask nothing more than to join their families in other countries. They do not seek to cause trouble for Soviet authorities, they do not seek to change the Soviet way of life. They ask simply to leave.