



NCSJ WEEKLY EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS
Washington, D.C. Friday, March 5, 2010

-----INDEX OF EVENTS-----

1. *NCSJ Teleconference with Stanford Hillel; NCSJ Attends Carnegie Endowment of International Peace Event; NCSJ Meets with Ukrainian Ambassador; NCSJ Consults Detroit Federation Leader on Mission to Belarus; NCSJ meets with JAFI Representative; NCSJ Meets with Director of Ukraine-Moldova-Belarus at the U.S. Department of State Briefs, March 1-5, 2010*
2. *NCSJ Attends Panel on U.S. Promotion of Religious Freedom*
Monday, March 1, 2010

#1a

NCSJ Teleconference with Stanford Hillel

NCSJ Director of Cultural Affairs and Community Services Lesley Weiss held a teleconference with the student participants of the upcoming NCSJ Student Leadership Program to Kyiv. The teleconference was a part of their orientation.

#1b

NCSJ Attends Carnegie Endowment of International Peace Event

NCSJ Executive Director Mark Levin attended a discussion at Carnegie Endowment of International Peace with Boris Nemtsov, former Deputy Prime Minister of Russia. Nemtsov discussed the development of political opposition in Russia. He said that in spite of severe handicaps put in place by the current government, the movement continues to grow.

#1c

NCSJ Meets with Ukrainian Ambassador

NCSJ Executive Director Mark Levin met with Ukrainian Ambassador Oleh Shamshur.

#1d

NCSJ Consults Detroit Federation Leader on Mission to Belarus

NCSJ Director of Cultural Affairs and Community Services Lesley Weiss met with Roz Blanck, a leader at the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit to discuss her involvement with the David-Horodoker Organization, a group of descendants from the Belarus shtetl, and advised her on their upcoming mission to Belarus.

#1e

NCSJ meets with JAFI Representative

NCSJ Director of Cultural Affairs and Community Services Lesley Weiss met with Robin Levenston, a U.S. regional director at the Jewish Agency for Israel.

#1f

NCSJ Meets with Director of Ukraine-Moldova-Belarus at the U.S. Department of State

NCSJ Executive Director Mark Levin met with Lawrence Silverman, Director of the Office of Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus Affairs at the U.S. Department of State.

#2

NCSJ Attends Panel on U.S. Promotion of Religious Freedom

Monday, March 1, 2010

NCSJ Senior Program Associate David Shulman attended a panel discussion entitled "Is U.S. Promotion of Religious Freedom Imperialistic?" hosted by the Johns Hopkins University's Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS).

The panelists were: Ishani Chowdhury, former director of public policy, Hindu American Foundation; Thomas Farr, senior fellow, Berkeley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs, Georgetown University; and Liu Peng, professor, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

Dr. Farr, the first director of the U.S. Department of State Office of International Religious Freedom, said U.S. policy was not imperialistic, but should be expanded not just to monitor violations but to encourage public debate on limiting state control of religion. Ms. Chowdhury accused the U.S. government discriminating in favor of Christian groups. She criticized Christian missionary activities that tie aid to acceptance of belief, and targeting poor, uneducated youth, as unfair. Dr. Peng focused on U.S. policies on religious freedom abroad as an impediment in U.S.-China bilateral relations.