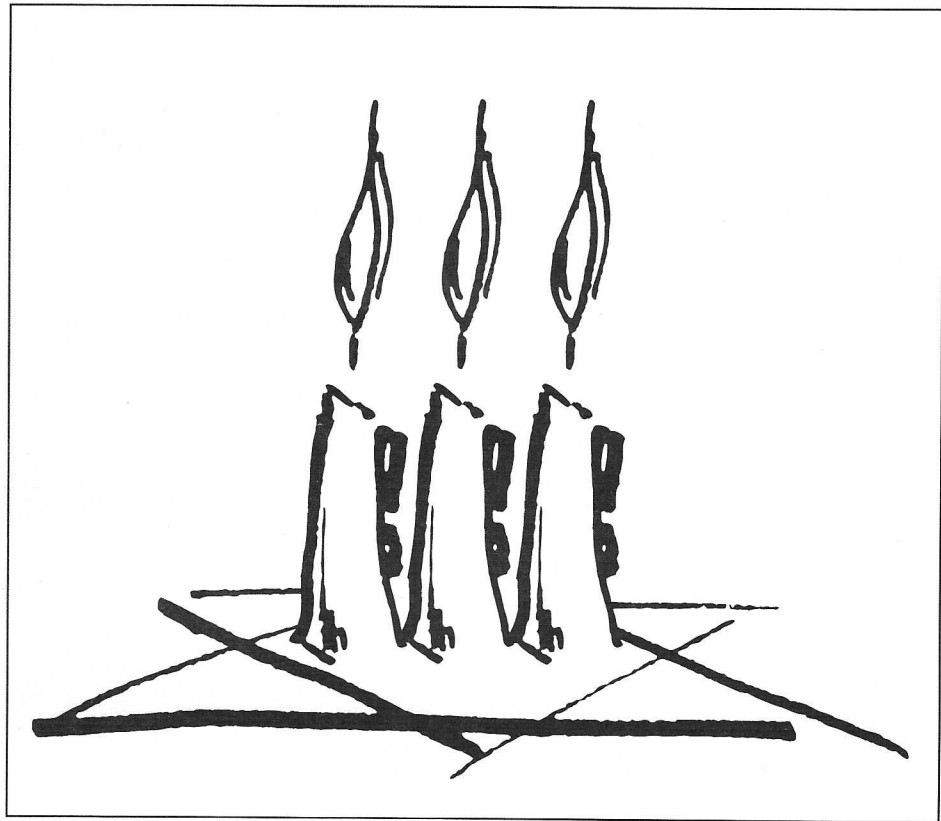


*The Third
Interfaith Concert of Remembrance*



Presented by
INTERFAITH COMMITTEE OF REMEMBRANCE
in cooperation with

The Cathedral of St. John the Divine
The Very Reverend James Parks Morton
Dean, Cathedral of St. John the Divine
112th St & Amsterdam Avenue, New York, NY 10027

November 21, 1992

HOLOCAUST REMEMBERED

Mr. Mayor,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Statement of V. Petrovsky at the
Third Interfaith Concert of Remembrance
The Cathedral of St. John the Divine
New York, November 21, 1992

For the people of my generation the word Holocaust has a special meaning. We have our own memories of the Second World War and these experiences have to a large extent shaped our political views. Perhaps one of the reasons why I joined the United Nations is the memories of the war and my strong conviction that everything possible should be done to prevent this from happening again.

The annihilation of six million Jewish people during this war was the greatest crime in the history of mankind. It will never be forgotten. We should spare no efforts to explain to the younger generations what happened in Europe during this darkest period of its history. However, we need these memories not to evoke bitterness or hatred. The Holocaust is the warning of what can happen to human beings when the brutish part of their nature is awakened.

The United Nations was created in 1945 essentially as the reaction of the international community to the horrors of the Holocaust. One of the major aims of this Organization according to its Charter is to ensure that people all over the world "practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbors". The United Nations has achieved significant success in promoting peace among nations. However, despite all the efforts of the UN and the international community on the whole we are now witnessing very alarming trends in international politics.

In different parts of the world aggressive, militant nationalism is gaining force. National intolerance has led to tragic events in Yugoslavia. Ethnic and religious conflict is disrupting the republics of the former Soviet Union. Regional conflicts based on extreme nationalism now constitutes a major problem facing the United Nations and the whole of the international community. Even in some civilized democratic countries ethnic tensions are on the rise. It is still not understood that any form of extreme nationalism, religious or racial hatred is the gravest sin and a crime against humanity. This is the main lesson which people should learn from the tragedy of the holocaust.

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

I do not want to delay the concert. It is a happy occasion for me to welcome Mr. Maxim Shestakovich who will speak to us in the language of harmony, that is music. He does not need any presentation. Mr. Shestakovich is a world renown musician and a courageous man whose political activities contributed much to the fall of totalitarism in Russia. I simply would like to suggest that now we all put aside our daily worries and let the great music we are soon going to hear remind us of the serenity which the human spirit can create out of the disorder of the human condition.

Thank you.