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### **IREX Short-Term Travel Grant Research Report – 9/8/2002**

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1. During my trip I visited Ukraine (Kiev) and researched the topic: “The history Jews in Kiev (late 18<sup>th</sup> century –1917)”.
2. This trip was very productive and successful: I gathered a lot of unpublished and rare published sources on the History of Jews in Kiev. I worked in three archives: The Central State Historical Archive of Ukraine in Kiev, The State archive of Kiev City, The Central State Archive of Film-photo-phono -documents of Ukraine and the National Library of Vernadsky that contain relevant materials on this topic. This trip had an important scholarly significance for my research, as I gathered unique and very important materials on the History of Jews in Kiev that will be excellent sources for preparation of my monograph on this topic. The preparation of the monograph on “The history Jews in Kiev (late 18<sup>th</sup> century –1917)” will have a strong impact on the research of the history of Jews in Eastern Europe, because the Kiev Jewish community was one of the oldest and largest Jewish communities in this area and its history still has not been extensively researched.
3. Since this area of history still has not been extensively researched I began my work by gathering all kinds sources on this topic: archive materials, memoirs, publications of old publishers and existing articles and monographs on the history Jews in Kiev. The archive materials have a significant role in research of this topic, because the few monographs and several articles that exist about this topic did not described many important aspects and details of the history of Jews in Kiev in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century to1917.

The one of important aspect of the approach to this topic and research methodology is that the history of Jews in Kiev is a part of the history of all the city population. Many events in the history of Kiev had a strong impact on the life of the Jewish community in this city. So research into the history of Jews in Kiev must incorporate this background and consider that tight connection with the general history of Kiev. Thus I also I researched lot of general publications on the history of Kiev during this trip.

As I mentioned before I worked in three archives: The Central State Historical Archive of Ukraine in Kiev, The State archive of Kiev city, The Central State Archive

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of Film-photo-phono documents of Ukraine and the National Vernadsky Library of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences in Kiev. I located many previously unpublished documents about Jewish life in Kiev. I spoke with Ukrainian historians Mikhail Kalnitsky, Yulia Smelianskaia, Oleg Kozerod, Vice-Director of the Administration of Ukrainian Archives Gennady Boriak and other scholars in Kiev about my research project. I spoke about my research to a meeting at the Institute of Jewish Studies in Kiev and I participated in a conference about East European Jewish History in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

4. A. I found in Kiev archives unique materials about the history Jews in Kiev:
  - the documents about history of Jewish community in Kiev, its leaders and structure;
  - the sources about Jewish religious life in Kiev, synagogues, prayer houses, rabbis;
  - the documents about political, economical, social and cultural life Jews in Kiev in the end of 18<sup>th</sup> century-1917; among them are very interesting sources about Jewish merchants and their business activity in Kiev; Jewish political and social parties and organizations; Jewish philanthropy, Jewish cultural organizations, Jewish schools. There are a lot of documents about participation of Kiev Jews in the revolutionary and Jewish national movements,
  - materials about Jewish-Christian relations, anti-Jewish pogroms, anti-Semitism, the Beilis affair, etc;
  - documents about regulation and legislation about residence (right to reside) for Jews in Kiev, and about the attitude of the local authorities to Kiev Jewish population;
  - photographs about the life Jews in Kiev in the end of the 19<sup>th</sup>- beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- B. I found many interesting publications in old newspapers about history of Jews in Kiev in 19<sup>th</sup> century- 1917.
- C. I found in the National Library of Vernadsky old monographs and articles and contemporary publications about the history Jews in Kiev that are not available in libraries in the US.

Thus I have now rich materials for the preparation of monograph on the history Jews in Kiev. All gathered materials show that this history was very complicated. Jews in Kiev were many times the victims of violence by the local population and persecution by the local authorities, and were often expelled from the city. Anti-Semitism was as wide spread among the local Kiev population as among the local authorities. There were a lot of prohibitions and limitations for residence of Jews in the city. In spite of that Jews settled in Kiev and created there one of the largest Jewish communities in the Russian empire. Kiev was attractive for Jews as a big industrial and trade center, one of the largest cities of the Russian empire. It was a place where it was possible to find a job and to develop private business. The Jewish population in Kiev made an important investment in the development of the city, and in its economic and cultural life. This contribution could have been even larger if their condition of life were not so adverse.

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5. I recommend that scholars who research the history of Jews in the Russian empire, the Soviet Union and Ukraine visit Kiev archives and the National Library of Vernadsky. These archive collections contain thousands of sources on these topics, the majority of which never have been published. The National Library of Vernadsky has a major collection of old local press and old publications about the history of Jews in the Russian empire that not available in the US libraries. Researching these documents and old publications could have a significant impact on the knowledge about the history of Jews in the Russian empire, the Soviet Union and Ukraine.
6. Unfortunately many Kiev archives still have not any technique for copying of documents, and researchers suppose to just rewrite them. This method of work is not efficient and demands a lot of time. Thus the scholars who want to research the documents in Kiev archives, must come to the city for long period of time. The other solution could be to bring a digital camera with you. However, you can use the camera only with the permission of the administration of the archives, which typically charges a lot of money for this privilege. The archives that make copies from the certain kinds of documents charge a very high price for them: from \$5 to \$10 per document. Thus scholars who are going to research documents in Kiev archives should be ready to meet these difficulties and problems in their work.