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Withdrawer

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FOIA

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PARRY

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ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
132389	MEMO	JOHN LENCZOWSKI TO ROBERT MCFARLANE RE WICK PROPOSAL <i>R 6/8/2018 M326/2</i>	2	4/16/1985	B1
132390	MEMO	ROBERT MCFARLANE TO THE PRESIDENT RE WICK PROPOSAL	1	ND	B1
132391	MEMO	FOR NICHOLAS PLATT RE WICK PROPOSAL	1	ND	B1
132392	MEMO	TO CHARLES WICK RE PROPOSAL	1	ND	B1

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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**United States
Information
Agency**

Washington, D.C. 20547

F-Su.PD
US/Su
P.L. Act

Office of the Director



April 5, 1985

Dear Walt:

Earlier this year you were kind enough to help me prepare a letter to Leonid Zamyatin, the chief of the international information department of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee. The letter rebutted several false allegations Zamyatin made concerning USIA programs and--more importantly--suggested ways to facilitate a more open dialogue between the U.S. and the Soviet Union on issues of world-wide importance. The letter, which was cleared by other agencies within the foreign affairs community, was delivered to Soviet officials on January 25 and I released it at a press conference on February 12.

A letter to me in mid-March from sixty-six Congressmen expressing support for our attempt to open up communications with the Soviets (enclosed) prompts me to send you a brief update on the state of play, and to thank you again for your thoughtful counsel.

I wish that I could report that the Soviets received our offer with open arms, but as you might know, no such thing has happened. The attacks on USIA and our programs have continued unabated, and to my knowledge, there has not been even a glimmer of acknowledgment of the offer. The only reaction came from Western sources (press clips enclosed).

I plan to persist, however, and the Congressional letter helps. We intend to query the Soviets about their response. I am also considering other ways to continue the pressure and keep their lack of response before the global public.

Mr. Walter Raymond, Jr.
Senior Director
for International Communication and
Information
National Security Council

I appreciate the suggestions and advice you gave in the first round of this effort. The offer remains a high priority for us. If you have any ideas on how to prompt a positive Soviet response, I would greatly like to hear them.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles Z. Wick". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Charles Z. Wick
Director

**United States
Information
Agency**

Washington, D.C. 20547

Office of the Director



January 25, 1985

Mr. Leonid M. Zamyatin
Chief, International Information Department
Central Committee, Communist Party of The Soviet Union
Staraya Ploshchad' 4
Moscow, USSR

Dear Mr. Zamyatin:

In recent months Soviet media have levied a number of attacks on U.S. public diplomacy and the U.S. Information Agency, especially on the Voice of America and our new WORLDNET satellite television service. Your article in Literaturnaya Gazeta ["Impasses of Confrontations and Horizons of Cooperation," November 28, 1984] summarizes most of the charges and typifies the underlying mindset. I am prompted to respond at this time to the continuing stream of attacks because in a period when our two governments are engaged in serious exploration of vital issues, such attacks are a disservice to more positive relations.

My hope is to generate a constructive dialogue. To initiate that dialogue I extend two concrete offers. First, I ask that you offer your good offices to facilitate using broadcast media to further mutual understanding. In this regard, I suggest that you arrange for Soviet television to carry an address by one of our top leaders which would be reciprocated on American television by one of your top leaders. There is a precedent for this: Mr. Brezhnev and Mr. Nixon made such speeches several years ago with considerable positive effect.

Second, I propose that we carry further the dialogue by having you and other Soviet officials and journalists take part in the WORLDNET program of which you are so critical. Let us jointly plan a one- to two-hour satellite television dialogue on WORLDNET in which Soviet journalists interview senior U.S. officials on issues of mutual concern. At the same time, you should plan with U.S. media a similar program in which American journalists freely and spontaneously question senior Soviet officials. Coming at this important time in our relations, such ventures could help make communication more reasoned and reciprocal.

Incidentally, I am not surprised by your unwarranted criticisms of WORLDNET and of our Agency. I have come to expect it. However, you should understand that our country does not claim, as you do, that opposing ideas "subvert" our system. We recognize instead that diversity of public opinion is one of the great strengths of America. Thus, our society freely permits Soviet spokesmen

to state their views on American television and in print. In this regard, I might note that Soviet journalists and Soviet officials are interviewed on American television literally dozens of times per year. Surely the time has come for greater equality of treatment.

If the United States can confidently tolerate opposing views without fears of "loosening" the system, why then should the Soviet government act so restrictively, even to the point of jamming our broadcasts in direct violation of several international agreements to which the USSR is a signatory? Why not allow greater independent public inquiry about your government's decisions and policies? Why should American officials, in turn, not be permitted to state their views on Soviet television and in the Soviet media? Our society has never walked away from a fair challenge, and we look forward to engaging in a peaceful contest of ideas with the USSR.

Your article is evidence of the need for this reasoned and open dialogue. Charges of "piracy of the air," "radio warfare," "subversive purpose," and "television propaganda aggression" only exacerbate the "impasses" and "confrontations" to which you allude and delay our search for "horizons of cooperation." Coming at this time, when the leaders of our two countries are seeking new means for considering meaningful arms reduction efforts and ways to stabilize relations, your attacks are most unfortunate. Surely, everyone concerned about U.S.-Soviet relations has a right to expect greater restraint and accuracy.

Although I will not attempt in this letter to deal with the many errors and distortions in your article, I would like to clarify the role and purpose of the U.S. Information Agency, particularly the Voice of America and WORLDNET.

- USIA is not in the business of misrepresenting Soviet foreign policy, as you allege. Its primary purpose is to present America to the rest of the world and to explain U.S. foreign and domestic policies to people around the world. In so doing, we present the news, good and bad.
- The Voice of America is a distinguished source of news and information about the United States -- our policies, society, culture, and values. By U.S. law, VOA is required to present "accurate, objective, and comprehensive" information, to be truthful, and to be "seen as a consistently reliable and authoritative source of news." Over 100 million people throughout the world listen to VOA each week, all voluntarily, many of them at risk to their safety.
- In modernizing and improving our communication facilities and seeking a wider audience, our purpose is to allow a greater proportion of the world's population to know what is going on in the world and be better able to reach independent judgments on these events.
- WORLDNET is a modern television system linking Washington via satellite with U.S. embassies, information centers, and a number of TV studios throughout the world. WORLDNET is not forced on receiving nations.

Journalists in the participating nations freely choose the programming that they wish to broadcast or write about or not use at all.

- WORLDNET enables foreign journalists to ask probing, unrehearsed questions instantaneously, via satellite, directly to high-level American officials. Your representatives from TASS, Pravda and other Soviet publications are welcome at official U.S. press conferences. They are welcome, too, as observers in our WORLDNET studio.

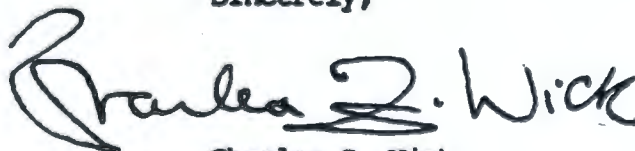
Permitting a free flow of information is in the best interests of both our societies and a necessary response to the times. The irreversible revolution in communications, enabling prompt and comprehensive dissemination of news, will make it increasingly harder to limit peoples' access to information.

All nations should ultimately welcome this: misunderstanding and ignorance only serve to exacerbate tensions in the conduct of international relations. Our nations need to know more about each other; we Americans are firmly committed to providing the peoples of the Soviet Union -- and the world community -- with an accurate picture of the United States. Similarly, we hope to broaden our nation's understanding of the USSR.

I hope that you will enable Soviet journalists and television commentators to participate actively, and very soon, in WORLDNET interviews of U.S. leaders to be broadcast in the USSR. In turn, American journalists should have an equal opportunity to interview your leaders for broadcast in the USA. This direct dialogue would broaden the "horizons of cooperation" that you did not discuss in your article, but that you, too, must want to see attained.

I look forward to your response to my offers that we exchange televised interviews by top U.S. and Soviet leaders and that Soviet journalists and officials participate in a WORLDNET dialogue with senior U.S. officials on issues of mutual concern.

Sincerely,



Charles Z. Wick
Director

News Release

United States Information Agency
Washington, D.C. 20547



CONTACT: Joseph D. O'Connell
Lois Herrmann /
PHONE: (202) 485-2355

CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT GROWS BEHIND WICK PROPOSAL FOR CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE WITH SOVIET UNION

WASHINGTON, Apr. 2--A bipartisan group composed of 66 members of the U.S. House of Representatives last week strongly endorsed the proposal made by Charles Z. Wick, director of the United States Information Agency, to Mr. Leonid M. Zamyatin, chief of the International Information Department of the Soviet Communist Party, for a constructive dialogue via international satellite television.

In their letter received March 28, 1985, the congressmen stated: "We, the undersigned members of Congress, would like to lend our support to further the implementation of your proposal." Moreover, they said, "We are convinced that increased communication between the United States and the Soviet Union will reduce the chance of conflict caused by misunderstanding."

The effort was initiated and coordinated by Congressman Dick Arney (R-Tex.). He, along with Representatives Robert H. Michel (R-Ill.), Jack Kemp (R-N.Y.), Berkley Bedell (D-Iowa), Barney Frank (D-Mass.), and Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.), wrote a letter to House members urging their support for this effort.

(more)

The House members stated that "this effort would constitute the first such exchange between the Soviet Union and the United States, and would present us with the opportunity to pierce the official veil of censorship and present the Soviet people with our message directly. We applaud this bold and imaginative initiative."

Responding to the letter, Wick said: "We are greatly heartened by this strong statement of bi-partisan support for strengthening America's communications on a reciprocal basis with the Soviet Union. This Congressional endorsement underscores the seriousness of our attempt to further the principles of free speech and debate. We hope that a similar response will be forthcoming soon from officials of the Soviet government."

Wick, who heads the United States Government's overseas information program, wrote to Leonid Zamyatin, chief of the International Information Department of the Soviet Communist Party, on January 25 to invite the Soviet Union to join the United States in reciprocal television addresses by American and Soviet leaders. Wick also invited the Soviets to participate in USIA's television network, WORLDNET.

Two proposals were outlined in Wick's letter to Zamyatin:

First, the offer to use the offices of the Director of USIA to arrange for a top-level Soviet official to appear on American television if Mr. Zamyatin would do likewise for a top American official on Soviet television.

(more)

Second, the offer to jointly plan a one- to two-hour satellite television dialogue on USIA's WORLDNET satellite facilities in which Soviet journalists would interview U.S. officials on issues of mutual concern. This would be reciprocated by a similar program in which American journalists would freely and spontaneously question senior Soviet officials.

In his letter to Zamyatin, Wick said, "Permitting a free flow of information is in the best interests of both our societies and a necessary response to the times. All nations," he continued, "should ultimately welcome this: misunderstanding and ignorance only serve to exacerbate tensions in the conduct of international relations."

The members of Congress concluded their letter of support to Wick by saying, "Only by opening new avenues of communication can we hope to establish a more peaceful and open relationship with the Soviet Union."



The Baltimore Sun, Wed. Feb. 13, '85, P. 4A

USIA chief suggests exchange of speeches with Soviet Union

By Ernest B. Furgurson
Chief of The Sun's Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The head of the U.S. Information Agency has challenged Soviet authorities to help improve relations by an exchange of speeches by top government officials, to be televised in both countries.

Charles Z. Wick also proposed a broadcast dialogue in which U.S. leaders would be interviewed by Soviet journalists and vice versa.

He said that "in a period when our two governments are engaged in serious exploration of vital issues," such exchanges "could help make communication more reasoned and reciprocal."

Mr. Wick cited a precedent for an exchange of speeches: between Leonid I. Brezhnev and Richard M. Nixon, at the time the nations' presidents, during the height of detente in 1973.

In 1961 the Soviet government newspaper *Izvestia* printed a long interview of President John F. Kennedy by Alexei Adzhubei, the paper's editor and the son-in-law of Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev. The Soviet press also reprinted the text of Mr. Kennedy's American University speech in 1963, which was considered a breakthrough toward the par-

Wick also proposed a broadcast dialogue in which U.S. leaders would be interviewed by Soviet journalists and vice versa.

tial nuclear test-ban treaty signed later that year.

In a letter sent January 25 to Leonid M. Zamyatin, chief of international information for the Communist Party's Central Committee, Mr. Wick said that "my hope is to generate a constructive dialogue." His message was in response to an article by Mr. Zamyatin in the Soviet periodical *Literaturnaya Gazeta*, which strongly criticized USIA activities, especially its recently begun "Worldnet" television program.

The program transmits U.S. government interviews and other material from Washington via satellite to embassies and other receiving points around the world.

U.S.-SOVIET B'cast Exchange Urged

Washington, Feb. 13 — U.S. Information Agency director Charles Wick has invited the Soviet Union to join in reciprocal television broadcasts by American and Soviet leaders and journalists.

Wick told a press conference here yesterday that he has written a letter to Leonid Zamyatin, his Soviet counterpart, suggesting that the two use their authority to further mutual understanding via the broadcast media. Zamyatin has not yet responded to the Jan. 25 missive, Wick said.

The approach was made in response to criticism by Zamyatin of recent propaganda efforts by the USIA by way of its Worldnet system. He said the worldwide broadcasts have slandered Soviet reality.

Wick asked Zamyatin to "arrange for Soviet television to carry

an address by one of our top leaders which would be reciprocated on American television by one of your top leaders."

The letter was not specific as to what U.S. broadcast facilities other than Worldnet might participate in any such information swap, but Wick noted that he has no authority to promise time on any of the television networks.

Wick also said that Radio Marti, the government's new propaganda radio station aimed at Cuba, would soon be broadcasting. He said a delay in launching operations has been caused by a slow process of obtaining security clearances for Cuban exiles and other employees that will staff the Spanish-language station. Operations had been slated for January.

D W

USIA

BY DANIEL F. GILMORE

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- THE UNITED STATES HAS INVITED THE SOVIET UNION TO JOIN IN RECIPROCAL TELEVISION BROADCASTS BY AMERICAN AND SOVIET LEADERS AND JOURNALISTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES, CHARLES Z. WICK, THE U.S. INFORMATION AGENCY DIRECTOR, DISCLOSED TUESDAY.

WICK TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE AT THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB HE HAS WRITTEN LEONID ZAMYATIN, CHIEF OF THE SOVIET INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION DEPARTMENT, "TO FACILITATE USING BROADCAST MEDIA TO FURTHER MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING."

ZAMYATIN HAS NOT YET REPLIED TO THE LETTER SENT JAN. 25, THE USIA DIRECTOR SAID.

THE APPROACH WAS MADE, WICK SAID, BECAUSE OF A NUMBER OF SOVIET ATTACKS MADE IN RECENT MONTHS ON U.S. PUBLIC DIPLOMACY AND ON THE USIA, ESPECIALLY ITS VOICE OF AMERICA RADIO BRANCH AND THE NEWER WORLDNET SATELLITE TELEVISION SERVICE.

WORLDNET PROVIDES A TWO-WAY LINK BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND SEVERAL FOREIGN NATIONS. SEVERAL NEWSCONFERENCES HAVE BEEN HELD WITH U.S. LEADERS IN WASHINGTON BEING QUESTIONED BY REPORTERS ABOARD.

ZAMYATIN, IN A LENGTHY ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN MOSCOW'S LITERARY GAZETTE LAST NOVEMBER, BITTERLY CRITICIZED USIA ACTIVITIES FOR DOING "EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO BLACKEN OUR LIFE AND SLANDER SOVIET REALITY."

"REAL IDEOLOGICAL WARFARE IS BEING WAGED AGAINST US," ZAMYATIN CHARGED. "BOURGEOIS INFORMATION ORGANS HAVE BECOME AN INSTRUMENT OF INTERFERENCE IN STATES' INTERNAL AFFAIRS. PRIORITY IS GIVEN TO RADIO WARFARE."

WICK, IN HIS LETTER, REPLIED, "I AM NOT SURPRISED BY YOUR UNWARRANTED CRITICISMS. ... HOWEVER, YOU SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT OUR COUNTRY DOES NOT CLAIM, AS YOU DO, THAT OPPOSING IDEAS 'SUBVERT' OUR SYSTEM." HE SAID THAT SOVIET SPOKESMEN AND JOURNALISTS OFTEN ARE PERMITTED TO STATE THEIR VIEWS ON AMERICAN TELEVISION AND IN PRINT.

HE NOTED AT THE NEWS CONFERENCE THAT TWO CORRESPONDENTS FROM THE OFFICIAL SOVIET NEWS AGENCY, TASS, AND A SOVIET DIPLOMAT WERE AMONG THOSE PRESENT.

IN HIS LETTER, WICK SAID, "THE TIME HAS COME FOR GREATER EQUALITY OF TREATMENT." HE SAID THAT THE SOVIETS FOR YEARS HAVE BEEN JAMMING VOA BROADCASTS TO THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS EASTERN EUROPEAN SATELLITES.

WICK ASKED ZAMYATIN TO "ARRANGE FOR SOVIET TELEVISION TO CARRY AN ADDRESS BY ONE OF OUR TOP LEADERS WHICH WOULD BE RECIPROCATED ON AMERICAN TELEVISION BY ONE OF YOUR TOP LEADERS," USING THE WORLDNET FACILITIES.

WICK ALSO PROPOSED THAT SOVIET OFFICIALS AND JOURNALISTS TAKE PART IN THE WORLDNET PROGRAMMING IN WHICH LEADERS ARE EXPOSED TO UNREHEARSED QUESTIONS FROM JOURNALISTS OF ALL NATIONALITIES.

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WASHINGTON (UPI) -- USIA DIRECTOR CHARLES WICK SAID TUESDAY HE HOPES THE AGENCY'S NEW SPANISH-LANGUAGE STATION, RADIO MARTI, SOON WILL BEGIN DAILY, 14 1/2 HOUR BROADCASTS TO CUBA.

THE UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY CHIEF TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE THAT THE RECRUITING OF STAFF IS TAKING LONGER THAN EXPECTED BECAUSE OF THE SLOW PROCESS OF SECURITY CLEARANCES FOR CUBAN EXILES AND OTHER EMPLOYEES. BUT HE SAID SOME 100 PROSPECTIVE STAFFERS HAD ALREADY BEEN SCREENED "AND WE HOPE TO GET ON THE AIR SOON."

IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS, WICK DESCRIBED AS "HYPOTHETICAL" A REPORTED THREAT THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD "TAKE OUT" -- PRESUMABLY BY BOMBING -- CUBAN RADIO TRANSMITTERS THAT TRIED TO JAM RADIO MARTI'S BROADCASTS.

HE SAID RADIO MARTI WILL BE POWERFUL ENOUGH TO GET THROUGH TO CUBAN LISTENERS.

RADIO MARTI HAD BEEN EXPECTED TO BEGIN OPERATIONS LAST MONTH.

UPI 02-12-85 03:25 PES

US-SOVIET TV

WASHINGTON (AP) -- THE DIRECTOR OF THE U.S. INFORMATION AGENCY TODAY SAID THAT HE HAS INVITED SOVIET LEADERS TO PARTICIPATE IN TELEVISED WORLDWIDE NEWS CONFERENCES STAGED BY HIS AGENCY.

CHARLES Z. WICK RELEASED A LETTER HE SENT JAN. 25 TO LEONID M. ZARNYATIN, CHIEF OF THE INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF THE SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY, SUGGESTING A "ONE- TO TWO-HOUR SATELLITE TELEVISION DIALOGUE ON WORLDNET IN WHICH SOVIET JOURNALISTS INTERVIEW SENIOR U.S. OFFICIALS ON ISSUES OF MUTUAL CONCERN.

"AT THE SAME TIME, YOU SHOULD PLAN WITH U.S. MEDIA A SIMILAR PROGRAM IN WHICH AMERICAN JOURNALISTS FREELY AND SPONTANEOUSLY QUESTION SENIOR SOVIET OFFICIALS," HE WROTE.

U.S. NETWORKS ROUTINELY INTERVIEW SOVIET OFFICIALS VIA SATELLITE. WORLDNET IS A TELEVISION NETWORK OPERATED BY USIA TO ALLOW FOREIGN JOURNALISTS TO INTERVIEW AMERICANS VIA SATELLITE HOOKUP WITH 40 U.S. EMBASSIES AND POSTS OVERSEAS.

ALTHOUGH MOST OF THE U.S.-BASED GUESTS ON THESE WORLDWIDE INTERVIEW SHOWS HAVE BEEN ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS, PROMINENT DOCTORS AND U.S. OLYMPIC OFFICIALS HAVE ALSO PARTICIPATED.

THE TV SIGNAL IS MADE AVAILABLE TO TV STATIONS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES FOR USE ON THE AIR.

WICK SAID HE HAS HAD NO REPLY FROM THE SOVIETS.

HE ALSO PROPOSED THAT LEADERS OF THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES BE ALLOWED TO ADDRESS EACH OTHER'S TELEVISION AUDIENCES.

WICK ADMITTED HE HAD NO WAY OF COMPELLING U.S. BROADCASTERS AND CABLECASTERS TO CARRY ANY PROGRAMMING OFFERED BY THE SOVIET UNION, BUT SAID HE THOUGHT SUCH ADDRESSES "WOULD ATTRACT A GREAT DEAL OF ATTENTION" FROM THE ELECTRONIC MEDIA.

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USIA INVITES SOVIETS TO TELEVISED WORLDWIDE NEWS CONFERENCES

WITH LASERPHOTO WX17

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OFFICIAL CHALLENGES MOSCOW TO LET REAGAN SPEAK ON SOVIET TV
BY NEIL LEWIS

WASHINGTON, FEB 12; REUTER - THE DIRECTOR OF THE U.S. INFORMATION AGENCY (USIA) TODAY CHALLENGED SOVIET AUTHORITIES TO ALLOW PRESIDENT REAGAN TO ADDRESS THE SOVIET PEOPLE ON TELEVISION.

CHARLES WICK MADE HIS OFFER IN A LETTER TO A SENIOR SOVIET OFFICIAL IN WHICH HE SAID THAT SOVIET LEADER KONSTANTIN CHERNENKO WOULD BE ALLOWED TO RECIPROCATE BY ADDRESSING THE AMERICAN PUBLIC.

UNDER QUESTIONING FROM REPORTERS, WICK ACKNOWLEDGED HE HAD NO AUTHORITY TO ENSURE THAT U.S. TELEVISION NETWORKS WOULD CARRY ALL OR PART OF A SOVIET LEADER'S SPEECH.

IN A LETTER TO SOVIET INFORMATION CHIEF LEONID ZAHYATIN, WICK SAID: "WHY SHOULD AMERICAN OFFICIALS ... NOT BE PERMITTED TO STATE THEIR VIEWS ON SOVIET TELEVISION AND IN THE SOVIET MEDIA?"

"OUR SOCIETY HAS NEVER WALKED AWAY FROM A FAIR CHALLENGE AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO ENGAGING IN A PERCEFUL CONTEST OF IDEAS WITH THE USSR."

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WICK NOTED THAT THE LATE SOVIET LEADER LEONID BREZHNEV AND FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON ADDRESSED EACH OTHERS' POPULATIONS SOME YEARS AGO BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT.

THE CONTROVERSIAL WICK; A FORMER BANDLEADER AND HOLLYWOOD PRODUCER WHO IS A LONG-TIME FRIEND OF PRESIDENT REAGAN; HAS BEEN THE TARGET OF HEAVY CRITICISM THAT HE HAS TRIED TO TRANSFORM THE USIA INTO A MORE ACTIVE PROPAGANDA ARM OF THE GOVERNMENT.

A RECENT PRESS REPORT CHARGED THAT WICK USED AGENCY STAFF MEMBERS TO PREPARE A 26-PAGE BOOKLET PRAISING HIS OWN PERFORMANCE AS HEAD OF THE USIA.

THE AUTHOR OF THAT ARTICLE TRIED TO QUESTION WICK TODAY; NOTING THAT IN HIS LETTER TO ZAHYATIN; WICK SAID U.S. OFFICIALS WERE NOT AFRAID OF SPONTANEOUS QUESTIONING FROM A FREE PRESS.

WICK ANGRILY REFUSED TO ANSWER AND ACCUSED THE REPORTER OF PRINTING SLANDEROUS STATEMENTS. HE THEN WHISPERED TO AN AIDE:

"WHAT-DO I DO NOW?"

REITER

RNNH

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DU EOK RSE YLP

121339 DIP :AA-WICK =3 WASHINGTON

IN HIS LETTER TO ZAHYATIN, WICK SAID THE UNITED STATES WAS MAKING THE CHALLENGE BECAUSE IT WAS UNAFRAID OF IDEAS AND WELCOMED DIVERSITY OF OPINION.

BUT WHEN ASKED ABOUT CHARGES FROM HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS THAT THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION HAS TRIED TO KEEP OUT HOSTILE IDEAS BY DENYING VISAS TO MANY FOREIGN INTELLECTUALS, INCLUDING LATIN AMERICAN WRITERS AND ITALIAN PLAYWRIGHTS, WICK ACKNOWLEDGED HE WAS UNAWARE THAT SUCH ACTIONS HAD TAKEN PLACE.

WICK SAID SOVIET SPOKESMEN APPEAR OFTEN ON U.S. TELEVISION PROGRAMMES, BUT HE SAID HE WAS UNAWARE THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAD TRIED TO MAKE THAT MORE DIFFICULT BY DENYING THEM VISAS.

SOVIET SPOKESMEN ARE ROUTINELY INTERVIEWED BY U.S. COMMERCIAL NETWORKS BY SATELLITE FROM MOSCOW.

REITER

U.S.-SOVIET B'cast Exchange Urged

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Wick asked Zamyatin to "arrange for Soviet television to carry

an address by one of our top leaders which would be reciprocated on American television by one of your top leaders."

The letter was not specific as to what U.S. broadcast facilities other than Worldnet might participate in any such information swap, but Wick noted that he has no authority to promise time on any of the television networks.

Wick also said that Radio Marti, the government's new propaganda radio station aimed at Cuba, would soon be broadcasting. He said a delay in launching operations has been caused by a slow process of obtaining security clearances for Cuban exiles and other employees that will staff the Spanish-language station. Operations had been slated for January.



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One for Wick

Let's chalk one up to Charles Wick, director of the U.S. Information Agency, for his proposal that U.S. officials be allowed something of the same sort of access to the Soviet media that Soviet spokesmen enjoy in the United States.

A little background: Worldnet, a new Voice of America TV satellite service, provides a two-way hookup between the United States and several foreign countries, and American officials make themselves available for press conferences at which foreign journalists ask unrehearsed questions. The sessions, 30 so far, have been seen, Mr. Wick estimates, by almost a billion people worldwide.

Mr. Wick's counterpart, Leonid Zemyatin, chief of the Soviet International Information Department, launched a barrage against the program in Moscow's Literary Gazette, charging the United States with "ideological warfare" and doing "everything possible to blacken our life and slander Soviet reality."

Mr. Wick was not content to slip the article into his personnel file as a commendation of a job well done. He wrote Mr. Zamyatin noting that Soviet spokesmen and journalists are often permitted to speak on American television and in print, and proposed a reciprocal arrangement by which their U.S. counterparts would have similar access to the Soviet media "to facilitate using broadcast media to further

mutual understanding." He has not yet received a reply, but whether he does or doesn't, and regardless of the response, he and we have won a propaganda gambit — a small one, perhaps, but propaganda achieves its effect incrementally.

"Press conferences" in the Soviet Union are restricted to Soviet journalists, who ask scripted questions to which scripted answers are made: Can one imagine Foreign Minister Gromyko, Defense Minister Solokov, Politburo hopefuls Mikhail Gorbachev and Grigory Romanov, much less President and party chief Konstantin Chernenko regularly submitting themselves to unprogrammed questioning by American journalists?

Mr. Wick's gesture may have been simply a dare he knew the opposition would not accept, but it could also have been a sidewise swipe at the American media — the primary offenders being network television — that grant Soviet spokesmen free access to the American, and thus the world, public.

The thing the Soviets fear most in the "ideological warfare" they have been waging since even before their revolution is the presentation of other viewpoints than their own. They go to extraordinary lengths to prevent it, and Mr. Wick's little nudge may force them into a sidestep that might be as entertaining as it is instructive to the watching world.

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

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March 21, 1985

Dear Mr. Wick,

We are writing to you today to express our support for your recent proposal to Mr. Leonid M. Zamyatin, Chief of the International Information Department of the Soviet Union, to initiate a constructive dialogue with the United States to further mutual understanding.

We are convinced that increased communication between the United States and the Soviet Union will reduce the chance of conflict caused by misunderstanding. A program to increase communication could be effectively implemented through the following two proposals outlined in your letter to Mr. Zamyatin.

First, the offer to use your offices to arrange for a high level Soviet official to appear on American television if Mr. Zamyatin would do likewise for a top American official on Soviet television.

Second, your proposal to begin the joint planning of a one-to-two hour satellite television dialogue on USIA's Worldnet satellite facilities in which Soviet journalists would interview U.S. officials on issues of mutual concern. This would be reciprocated by a similar program in which American journalists would freely and spontaneously question Soviet officials.

In conclusion, we strongly agree with your statement that, "permitting a free flow of information is in the best interests of both our societies and a necessary response to the times."

We, the undersigned Members of Congress, would like to lend our support to further the implementation of your proposal. Only by opening new avenues of communication can we hope to establish a more peaceful and open relationship with the Soviet Union.

Sincerely,

Dick Arney
DICK ARMEY

Berkley Be Dell
BERKLEY BEDELL

Barney Frank
BARNEY FRANK

Jack Kemp
JACK KEMP

Robert H. Michel
ROBERT H. MICHEL

Edward J. Markey
EDWARD J. MARKEY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

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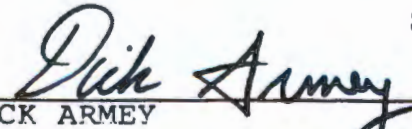
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DICK ARMEY


BARNEY FRANK


ROBERT H. MICHEL


BERKLEY BEDELL


JACK KEMP


EDWARD J. MARKEY

Jim Jeffords
James M. Jeffords

Silvio O. Conte
Silvio O. Conte

Frank Horton
Frank Horton

Helen Delich Bentley
Helen Delich Bentley

Arlan Stangeland
Arlan Stangeland

Harry M. Reid
Harry M. Reid

Bill Lowery
Bill Lowery

John E. Grotberg
John E. Grotberg

Jim Saxton
Jim Saxton

Austin J. Murphy
Austin J. Murphy

Trent Lott
Trent Lott

Michael DeWine
Michael DeWine

Nancy Johnson
Nancy Johnson

Tom Loeffler
Tom Loeffler

Bill Frenzel
Bill Frenzel

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Jim Coarter
Jim Coarter

Ed Markey
Edward J. Markey

Ben Gilman
Benjamin A. Gilman

Jim Leach
Jim Leach

Beau Boulter
Beau Boulter

Tom DeLay
Tom DeLay

Robert J. Lagomarsino
Robert J. Lagomarsino

Connie Mack
Connie Mack

Dan Lungren
Dan Lungren

John E. Porter
John E. Porter

Bill Archer
Bill Archer

Bill Dannemeyer
Bill Dannemeyer

Duncan Hunter
Duncan Hunter

Lynn Martin
Lynn Martin

William M. Hendon
William M. Hendon

Carroll Campbell

Mark D. Siljander

Rod Chandler

Hal Rogers

Robert R. Dornan

Vin Weber

David Dreier

Jim Moody

Bruce A. Morrison

John R. Miller

Marcy Kaptur

John M. Spratt, Jr.

William O. Lipinski

Robert J. Mrazek

Bruce A. Morrison

Chris Smith

Stephen L. Neal

Robert S. Walker

Candiss Collins

Howard L. Berman

Steve Bartlett

Raymond J. McGrath

George J. Wortley

Jack Fields

Dan Coats

James V. Hansen

Tim Valentine

Mickey Leland

Bob McEwen

Martin Frost

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FACT SHEET ON THE U.S. INFORMATION AGENCY
IN RESPONSE TO LEONID ZAMYATIN ARTICLE

"IMPASSES OF CONFRONTATION AND HORIZONS OF COOPERATION"

The November 28 Literaturnaya Gazeta article by Leonid Zamyatin, Chief of the International Information Department of the Communist Party of Soviet Union, includes many inaccuracies about USIA, its mission and operations. A clarification in response to selected statements in that article follows:

1. Mr. Zamyatin says: "American imperialism, having suffered a series of major defeats in the world arena, is undertaking attacks on an increasingly massive, unprecedented scale against the Soviet Union's social system and Marxist-Leninist ideology and is striving to misrepresent Soviet foreign policy objectives and block the growing influence of real socialism."

The facts are: USIA is responsible for explaining U.S. policies to the world and sharing the underlying values of our own democratic society with the world. Both the Smith-Mundt Act of 1948 and the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 (the Fulbright-Hays Act) have as their purpose to "increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries."

USIA provides factual reporting on U.S.-Soviet relations and on Soviet activities around the world. Necessarily, these have included Soviet actions such as the invasion of Afghanistan and human rights abuses, and U.S. reaction.

2. Mr. Zamyatin says: [U.S. "ruling circles"] "use the U.S. President's speeches, Congress, the State Department, ... and various Zionist and emigre organizations and committees ... [to] whip up the campaign about so-called 'human rights violations' in the USSR and their other socialist countries."

The facts are: One of USIA's most important goals is to communicate the fundamental American commitment to individual freedom and human rights. For example, the U.S. has just completed its national elections, a free and open experience in democracy that serves as inspiration for the rest of the world. These elections were witnessed around the world through the WORLDNET televised satellite transmissions referred to in Mr. Zamyatin's article.

This type of accusation by Soviet media services is a daily occurrence. If the U.S. makes reference to actual Soviet human rights abuses, such as the forced exile of the Sakharovs, or of psychiatric abuse, or the crackdown on the Helsinki monitoring group, the USSR attacks us for interfering in its internal affairs. Yet the free press in nations around the world report the same abuses. These are not imaginary.

USIA does indeed quote President Reagan and other ranking Administration officials when they speak out on human rights abuses around the world, including the Soviet Union.

In his Human Rights Day remarks, Dec 10, 1984, the President said: "...we do a serious disservice to the cause of human rights if we forget that, however mistaken and wrong, however stumbling the actions of democracies in seeking to achieve the ideals of freedom and brotherhood, our philosophy of government permits us to acknowledge, debate, and then correct mistakes, injustices, and violations of human rights. Let us always remember the critical moral distinction of our time -- the clear difference between a philosophy of government that acknowledges wrong-doing and injustice and one that refuses to admit to such injustices, and even justifies its own assaults on individual liberty in the name of a chimeric utopian vision. Such brutal affronts to the human conscience as the systematic suppression of individual liberty in the Soviet Union, and the denial of religious expression by Christians, Jews, and Muslims in that country, are tragic examples."

3. Mr. Zamyatin says: "Real ideological warfare is being waged against us. Bourgeois information organs have become an instrument of interference in states' internal affairs. We are dealing with attempts to turn radio and television channels into an instrument of interference in states' internal affairs and of the execution of subversive acts."

The facts are: U.S. foreign broadcasting activities are conducted in full accord with international agreements to which the Soviets themselves are party. The guarantees of free flow of information across borders contained in Basket III of the Helsinki Final Act is one example of such an agreement. As for charges that these broadcasts are interference in the internal affairs of other countries or "ideological warfare," Mr. Zamyatin offers no evidence, apparently believing that a point of view different from that of his own government is sufficient to constitute interference or ideological warfare.

4. Mr. Zamyatin says: "Priority is given to radio warfare. The volume of radio broadcasts from capitalist countries to the Soviet Union has increased to 240 hours a day."

The facts are: As of January 1984, Radio Moscow was broadcasting 1,675 program hours a week in more than 60 languages. VOA during the same period was broadcasting 967 hours in 42 languages, although that figure has now increased slightly to 986 hours per week. This averages out to approximately 140 program hours a day. The Soviet daily average--for all stations--is almost 311 program hours.

Soviet ally states broadcast a total of 2,334 radio program hours a week break down as follows:

Warsaw Pact states: 1,615
Cuba: 420
Vietnam: 189
Laos: 53
Cambodia 18
Mongolia 39

Thus the Soviets and their allies' weekly radio broadcasts total 4,509 program hours a week, or a daily average of over 644 hours.

Western radio broadcasts to the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe total 2,100 program hours a week, or an average of 300 hours daily. This figure includes the broadcasts of VOA, Radio Free Europe, Radio Liberty, Deutsche Welle, DLF, BBC, France-Inter, Radio Monte Carlo, Vatican Radio, and the external radio services of South Korea, Canada, Israel, Italy and Sweden. These services may be government owned, but those governments are all free and open democracies. Their broadcasts report on each other, often critically, as readily as the Soviet Union.

5. Mr. Zamyatin says: "This year the U.S. Information Agency (USIA) received some \$800 million for its subversive purpose. R. Reagan's administration is stepping up the implementation of a large-scale program of measures for the use of radio broadcasting abroad as a means of subversive propaganda against the USSR and the other socialist countries, as well as the developing states of Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Within the framework of the program announced last year for the modernization and technical reequipping of the VOA and its replenishment with cadres (\$1 billion is allocated for these purposes for the current 5-year period), new, high-power short- and medium-wave transmitters are being built in countries of the Near East, the Persian Gulf, and the Far East. Special attention is devoted to the modernization of the VOA's technical potential for broadcasting to Central American countries. Washington is engaged in active diplomatic work on the leaders of states in those regions with the aim of enlisting their consent to the siting of radio transmitters."

The facts are: USIA's FY-1985 appropriated budget totaled \$796.4 million. Soviet expenditures on information, cultural and radio activities comparable to those of USIA for 1982, the latest estimate available to us, were approximately \$2.125 billion, not including cultural exchange programs. The Soviets outspend the U.S. more than fourfold. USIA employs about 8,700 people. Approximately 70,000 are engaged in similar work in the Soviet Union.

The Voice of America is required by law (Public Law 94-350, July 12, 1976, commonly referred to as the Charter of the Voice of America) to "serve as a consistently reliable and authoritative source of news.

VOA news will be accurate objective and comprehensive." VOA must also "present a balanced and comprehensive projection of American thought and institutions" and "present the policies of the United States clearly and effectively as well as responsible discussion and opinion on those policies."

USIA is projecting a budget of over \$1 billion for the completion of VOA technical and program modernization over the next five or six years. This includes the construction of new overseas relay stations and the upgrading of existing transmitting facilities in the U.S. and overseas. Agreements for new construction have been signed with the governments of Sri Lanka, Morocco, Thailand, and Belize and a private association in Costa Rica.

VOA currently has six 500 KW superpower transmitters (actually combinations of aged 250 KW's) compared to 37 modern 500 KW units used by the USSR.

Over 110 million people throughout the world listen to VOA each week. They do so voluntarily, many at risk to their safety; no one forces them to turn their dials to VOA.

6. Mr. Zamyatin says: "New VOA bureaus have been opened this year in Geneva, Rome, Islamabad, and other cities."

The facts are: VOA now has a total of 19 overseas bureaus; Radio Moscow has 26 official foreign bureaus.

7. Mr. Zamyatin says: "The VOA seeks to break up the unity of Soviet society and turn the country's population against the CPSU's policy. The materials concerning questions of the Soviet economy are also of a subversive, diversionary nature."

The facts are: This statement refers to the fact that, in addition to Russian, VOA broadcasts in seven other languages which are spoken in the Soviet Union: Ukrainian, Azerbaijani, Uzbek, Georgian, Latvian, Lithuanian and Estonian. VOA's reporting is factual. VOA programming does include news about events and developments in ethnic communities in the U.S. which the various language services believe would be of interest to their specific audiences.

8. Mr. Zamyatin says: Daily, the bourgeois propaganda thesis of "socialism's economic bankruptcy" is pushed persistently. They also take good care to keep quiet about the concrete facts of the dynamic development of the Soviet economy, which today accounts for one-fifth of world industrial production and is ahead of the United States in a number of the most important indicators. The radio station, filling its broadcasts with assertions about the "defects" of the Soviet national economy, claims that the centralized economic management system adopted in the USSR must be renounced and a "market system" introduced.

The facts are: VOA includes factual coverage of newsworthy developments in the Soviet Union in its programming. All items are based on Western agency news reports. Economic reporting includes such items as Soviet harvest information and U.S. grain sales to the USSR, which reveal weaknesses in the Soviet economy. It also includes reportage more favorable to the Soviet economy, for example Soviet oil exports to the West.

9. Mr. Zamyatin says: "The Voice of America [VOA] regularly comes out in support of the activity of clericalist sects and groups that violate Soviet laws. The measures adopted by Soviet organs against the organizers and leaders of such groups are represented in VOA broadcasts as "the USSR's persecutions of believers for their religious convictions."

The facts are: The U.S. is firmly committed to the principle and practice of religious freedom. There is no law in the U.S. requiring state sanction of a religious group or sect. Such a law would not be tolerated in the U.S. The Soviet law referred to is just such a law. Any religious group attempting to practice its belief without state sanction is therefore violating that law.

10. Mr. Zamyatin says: These broadcasts continue to be permeated with the spirit of a "crusade" against communism. The radio station makes great efforts to instill a stereotype into the listener's consciousness: "The USSR is an undemocratic State." The same old myth about the "USSR's failure to observe the basic rights and freedoms of the individual" is constantly harped on.

The facts are: VOA's reports of human rights abuses and violations of fundamental democratic norms in the Soviet Union are based on incontrovertible evidence and affirmed by independent observers. Journalists, diplomats, international organizations, and independent Soviet organizations such as the much-persecuted Helsinki Watch Group attest to the accuracy of VOA's reports.

11. Mr. Zamyatin says: It is characteristic that attacks on the USSR's foreign and domestic policy are contained in many of the "commentaries" on the VOA, which is an official organ of the U.S. Government.

The facts are: VOA does have the responsibility to present the policies of the United States clearly and effectively. This it does in daily editorials, clearly identified as such. These editorials do deal with differences we have with the Soviet Union, particularly on human rights. A few recent examples follow.

October 1, 1984: "The United States will continue to view human rights as the moral center of our foreign policy." With those words, spoken at the United Nations this past week, President Reagan reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to seek liberty and justice for all the world's people. To Soviet Jews, it is support sorely needed...To prevent Jewish emigration, the Soviet regime resorts to more than

harassment. The Kremlin regularly denied visas required to leave the country. In 1979, before the clamp-down on emigration, some 51,000 Jews left the Soviet Union. By last year the stream had become a mere trickle: only 1,300 managed to emigrate in 1983...Many Jewish human rights activists are incarcerated in Soviet prisons and labor camps. All Jews face repression if they choose to practice their faith. The Kremlin refuses to let Jews study Hebrew or have religious schools...Among other propaganda, one especially ugly book, published and acclaimed by the government-controlled press, castigates what they call Zionists and -- incredibly -- charges them with aiding the Nazis in their extermination campaigns during World War II...Justice is indivisible. Jews -- like Russians, Ukrainians, Uzbeks, and all other peoples of the Soviet Union -- possess inalienable rights. These rights should be respected -- not violated -- by the Soviet government."

June 26, 1984: "On May 2, the human rights advocate and Nobel Peace Prize Winner (Andrei Sakharov) began a hunger strike to protest the Kremlin's refusal to allow his wife, Yelena Bonner, to receive the medical treatment abroad that she urgently needs. Two weeks later, Dr. Sakharov disappeared from his Moscow apartment in Gork'i'y, where he had been placed under virtual house arrest in 1980. Soviet authorities claim that Dr. Sakharov was taken to a hospital and that, presumably as a result of force-feeding, he is alive...From his first public appeals against Soviet human rights abuses, Dr. Sakharov has suffered the effects of that repression: denied work, stripped of his awards, detained, questioned, banished. Now, Soviet authorities have taken Dr. Sakharov and his wife away. Apparently, having isolated the couple completely, Soviet rulers hope that the world will forget both their cause and their plight. But the world isn't forgetting."

April 30, 1984: "If anyone still wonders why the Soviet Union is so anxious to censor the news its people receive, recent events provide a convincing answer. Last week, Enn Tarto, an Estonian human rights advocate, was sentenced by a Soviet court to 10 years at hard labor and another five years of internal exile, far from his native home...The Soviet rulers have arrested more than 10 of the signers of the Baltic Appeal -- a 1979 document which called for respect for the rights of of the people of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia. But, like the case of Tarto last week, none of the trials have gone public. And what limited information is provided to the Soviet people does not reveal that those arrested and jailed are human rights advocates... When news of human rights activities in the Soviet Union leaks out, it is reported by the free press in democratic countries. And, when the facts are confirmed by reliable sources, international radio stations in the West broadcast it. Thus, the Soviet people can hear the facts that the Soviet rulers prefer to conceal...In its report on the recent sentencing of the Estonian human rights activist Enn Tarto, the Soviets' official information agency, Tass, sourly described him as a 'stooge of Western radio stations.' What it is

really complaining about is that Tarto, and all the other human rights advocates in the Soviet Union, are trying to tell the truth."

12. Mr. Zamyatin says: "A system of direct television broadcasting through communications satellites is being developed rapidly and is already being put into outright piracy of the air. We are dealing with attempts to turn radio and television channels into an instrument of interference in states' internal affairs and of the execution of subversive acts."

"Washington experts in planning "psychological warfare" operations place particular emphasis on the use of television combined with satellite technology. E. Fyulner (sic), Chairman of the 'U.S. Consultation Commission on Questions of Public Diplomacy (sic),' asserted: 'Out of all the means of contact with a foreign audience at the USIA's disposal, the most powerful is television.'

"An organizational restructuring of the services of the main U.S. propaganda department (USIA) was undertaken in 1983. A new subunit was set up within its framework -- the Department of Television Propaganda Abroad (sic). The Department's brief is to prepare daily television newscasts for dissemination on the American 'WORLDNET' system ('WORLDNET' is a worldwide television network set in 1983-1984 on the basis of an improvement of the satellite communications network servicing the USIA). The WORLDNET system has now been brought into operation in the main salients, ensuring two-way communications between USIA headquarters in Washington and its 205 missions in 126 countries. The television channel makes it possible to receive pictures at U.S. missions from USIA studios and to hold direct intercontinental 'television linkups,' television meetings, and press conferences by prominent officials in the U.S. Administration."

The facts are: USIA's radio and television broadcasting complies with all international laws. The suggestion of "piracy" of the air is ridiculous, implying that the "air" is somehow the property of certain states when in fact -- as with freedom of the seas -- the atmosphere is open to all nations.

WORLDNET is a satellite television delivery system which allows foreign journalists, academics, government officials and other prominent national representatives to interact directly with leading Americans on important issues of current and common concern. The sessions take place without any form of censorship by USIA.

USIA's Film Service was established in 1953. The Television Service began in 1956. They have since been merged into the Television and Film Service. The Agency's first satellite broadcast was made in October 1964. WORLDNET, the first interactive, state-of-the-art television network, was inaugurated on November 3, 1983. The network is designed to link Washington via satellite with 40 U.S. embassies and posts overseas for live press conferences and other video exchanges between government officials, prominent experts and

practitioners, and journalists. WORLDNET does project the views of the Administration, but it also increasingly present a broad spectrum of opinion on a wide variety of subjects, political and non-political.

13. Mr. Zamyatin says: According to the calculations of the system's creators, it is supposed to increase the chances of USIA television propaganda programs reaching a wide audience abroad.

The facts are: USIA does seek to reach a wide audience through television programming. This is only possible when an overseas television network or station makes the decision to accept a USIA-produced program or satellite transmission for telecast to its own viewers. That only happens if the program contains reliable material of appeal and interest to those particular audiences.

14. Mr. Zamyatin says: The danger inherent in the plans nurtured by the U.S. Administration for carrying out television propaganda aggression from space by means of direct television broadcasting is well understood, especially by the vast majority of the developing countries, which call for a New Information Order and the elimination of "information imperialism." The newspaper LE SOLEIL, published in Senegal, wrote, reflecting the view of a number of African states: "Direct television broadcasting opens the way for broad ideological penetration of the liberated countries by the former colonial powers."

The facts are: USIA television programs offer information wanted by the viewers. We would otherwise not have an audience. No one is forced to watch.

WORLDNET programs are presented in an open format that allows foreign journalists and other participants to ask probing, unrehearsed questions of their choice directly to prominent Americans. They are interactive, offering a two-way exchange.

Information imbalance is a genuine concern for much of the developing world and the U.S. is certainly sympathetic with that concern. However, the interests of developing nations are served not by limiting their access to information and differing viewpoints, but by expanding it and by their developing their capability to participate more fully in the exchange of global information.

The right of unimpeded access to information is clearly recognized by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which states (Article 19): "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes the freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers." The news media of both developing and developed countries have spoken out in favor of freedom of information on numerous occasions; in May, 1981, representatives of the private media of 21 nations, meeting in France, issued the

Talloires Declaration which among other things decries censorship and press restrictions as a violation of every individual's right to be informed.

15. Mr. Zamyatin says: This technology, the newspaper notes, makes it possible to "inundate the developing countries with a torrent of information that suits imperialism, undermines the emerging national telecommunications systems, and will have a negative effect on the development of national culture."

The facts are: Rather than harming the telecommunication systems of developing nations, the U.S. and other developed countries have launched programs to assist Third World nations to develop up-to-date communications technology. U.S. contributions of \$1.4 million have helped support UNESCO's International Program for the Development of Communications (IPDC) which is now administering 64 training projects. The United States Technical Training Institute (USTTI) trained 205 students from 55 developing countries in its first year of operation. General advances in communications technology have benefited all nations through lower telephone rates and increasing availability of low-cost transistor radios and televisions, for example. This has aided economic growth in the countries that most need it and by extension contributed to, rather than detract from, the enrichment of their cultures.

16. Mr. Zamyatin says: "In a covering letter from the USSR Foreign Minister to the UN Secretary-General, the main elements of the Soviet position on direct television broadcasting were formulated as follows: "Broadcasts to other states conducted without the clearly expressed consent of those states and broadcasts detrimental to the cause of maintaining international peace and security, constituting interference in states' internal affairs, encroaching on basic human rights, containing propaganda of violence and terror, undermining the foundations of the local civilization and culture, or misinforming the population are deemed to be unlawful and culpable under international law."

The facts are: The U.S. believes that societies prosper when open to the free circulation of ideas and information, with access to the give and take of myriad points of view. The underlying supposition of the Soviet position suggests that societies flourish best when their members are ignorant of the worldwide flow of facts and ideas.

Presumably, Foreign Minister Gromyko's concern would also apply to Radio Moscow. The U.S. has never attempted to stifle the broadcasts of Radio Moscow.

17. Mr. Zamyatin says: American representatives on various UN organs have done everything possible, under the pretext of the "free flow of information," to thwart the elaboration of legal principles for the use of direct broadcasting satellites, and also to block the preparation of an appropriate convention.

The facts are: The U.S. stands ready to work with the United Nations in the consideration of international conventions dealing with the question of direct broadcasting satellites. Our longstanding policy, based on shared values with other open societies, stresses flexibility in planning international communications relations, openness and the free flow of information.

REVISION VII - Completed January 9, 1985

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P. 42

Fifth International Sakharov Hearing

The Fifth International Sakharov Public Hearing will be held at the
London Press Centre, 76 Shoe Lane, EC4
on April 10-11, 1985

These dates fall shortly before the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Helsinki Final Act, and the Hearing will concentrate on the development of the human rights situation since then in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. The question of the future of the Helsinki Accords will be considered.

The Sakharov Hearings have acquired a substantial history. The first was in Copenhagen in 1975, then Rome (1977), Washington (1979), and Lisbon (1983).

The topics which will be presented and discussed by chosen speakers at the Fifth Hearing will include changes in Soviet internal policies from 1975-1985, particularly changes in the laws, policy on dissent, treatment of religious and national minorities, Helsinki monitoring groups, censorship, radio-jamming, emigration.

The Executive Committee of the Sakharov Hearing seeks the co-operation of governmental, non-governmental and private bodies concerned with the Helsinki process, as well as of human rights organizations. Evidence may also be taken from private individuals who have special experience of human rights violations in any of the signatory countries to the Accords. Special emphasis will be given to the question of the steps, if any, which are available to secure greater compliance with the human rights provisions of the Helsinki Accords.

The Executive Committee invites papers on the suggested topics. Reasonable travel and accommodation expenses may be defrayed for participants at the sole discretion of the Executive Committee.

Address for correspondence:
Dr. Allan Wynn, Chairman
Fifth International Sakharov Hearing
Apart. 1, 44 Cranley Gardens, London SW7

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

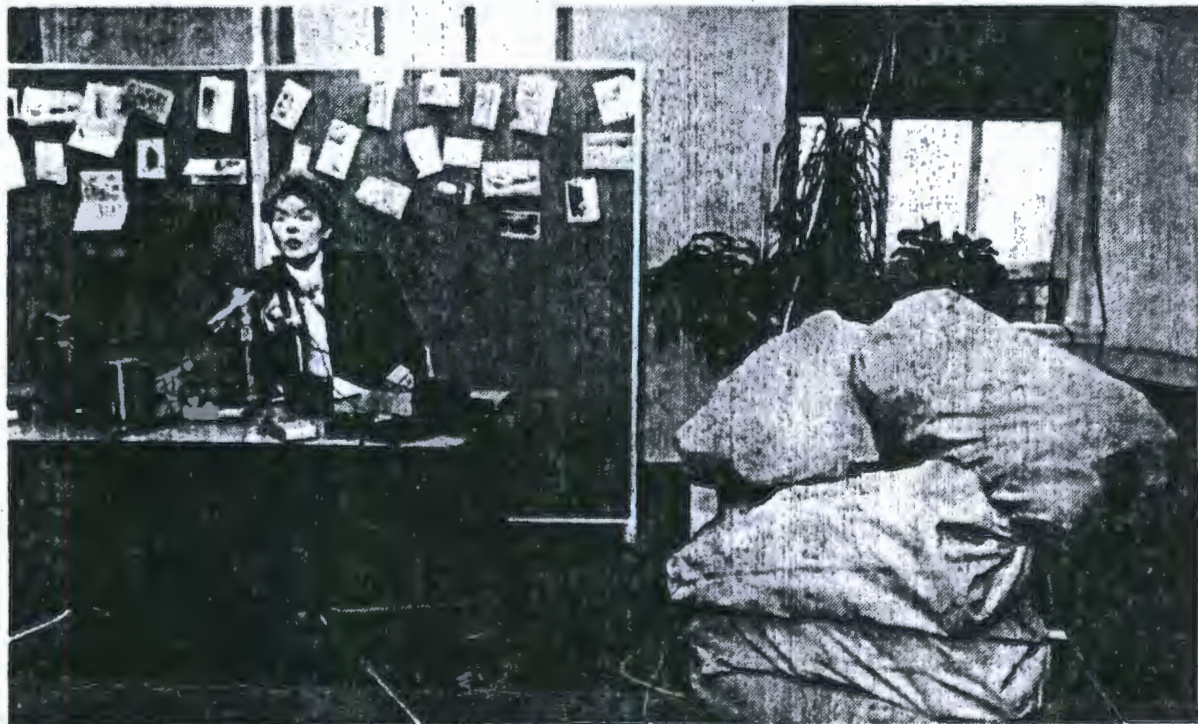
Mr. Martin Dewhirst
Mr. Michael Scammell

Mr. Peter Reddaway
Mr. E. Yankelevich *

* Dr. Andrei Sakharov's personal representative.

THE NEW YORK CITY TRIBUNE

JANUARY 9, 1985



20,000 letter writers concerned about Sakharov

U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Jeane Kirkpatrick sits beside mailbags containing about 20,000 sympathetic letters sent in to *Reader's Digest* magazine after the publication printed a story about the plight of Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov. "These are letters wholly written by their authors, not a postcard campaign," Kirkpatrick said. "[It is] a moving outpouring of concern about the fate and wellbeing of the Sakharovs."

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THE LATEST ON THE SAKHAROVs

December 22, 1984

The enclosed "Khronika Press" bulletin, based in parts on the most recent reports from Moscow, offers a tentative reconstruction of the events since the beginning of Dr. Sakharov's hungerstrike.

Since the end of September, we have received several telegrams and postcards from Yelena Bonner. The latest one is dated November 29th. Not much can be deduced from these postcards, other than that they both live in the same apartment in Gorki, and are confined to the city limits.

Our attempts to call them on the telephone have, so far, failed.

Recently, we received a picture of the Sakharovs, made, apparently, in a photo studio, on September 13, and mailed by Yelena Bonner on October 29th.

The latest pictures of the Sakharovs were published on December 15 by German newspaper "Bild". (Previously, in June, "Bild" has published pictures of the Sakharovs provided by a soviet journalist Victor Louis. In August it released a KGB made film showing Dr. Sakharov in a hospital, and Mrs. Sakharov on the streets of Gorky. The latest pictures are also from a "Moscow source".)

These pictures, shot by a hidden camera, show the Sakharovs in a park and at the entrance to a movie theatre. They are made, apparently, in the middle of October (judging by the weather and by the October issue of soviet magazin "Ogonyok" prominently displayed by a by-stander, whom "Bild" identifies as a "KGB-agent") Dr. Sakharov seems to look better, or more himself, than it appears on the September picture.

The release of the pictures coincided with Mr. Gorbachev's arrival in London, and was, probably, caused by Mr. Gorbachev's visit to England.

Another, less encouraging theory might be that the purpose of the release of these two month old pictures was to divert attention from further persecution of the Sakharovs (their separation?). The earlier precedent seems to support this theory: the August release of the KGB-made film coincided with the trial of Yelena Bonner.

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January 22, 1985 will mark the fifth anniversary of Dr. Sakharov's exile to Gorki. According to the Soviet law, 5 years is the maximum term of exile. Although Dr. Sakharov was neither formally charged, nor did he stand a trial, one can argue that the denial of the right to the fair trial does not justify a waiver of other guaranties afforded by the Soviet law. In any case, the expiration of the maximum term of exile provides the Soviet authorities with an opportunity to reconsider their policy toward the Sakharovs. I suggest that they should be reminded of the maximum term provision.

Efrem Yankelevich



Picture of the Sakharovs, made on September 13, and mailed by Yelena Bonner on October 29th. A note on the back, in Yelena Bonner's handwriting, says: "This is for all of you, and, first of all, for you, mother [Ruth Bonner], to convince you, at last, that we are alive...".

The picture was made, apparently, 6 days after Dr. Sakharov left the hospital.



BULLETIN

Human Rights in Eastern Europe

Poland: Three Years After

The lifting of martial law in Poland on July 21, 1983, and the subsequent amnesty, were greeted by the world with much fanfare. According to a Lawyers Committee report, however, the return to "normalcy" is in many respects an illusion.

The declaration of martial law in 1981 began a systematic codification of martial law decrees into Poland's permanent statutes. The "lifting" of martial law two years later signalled the virtual completion of this process. Broad security and police force powers have been entrenched, including the power to search and arrest without prior court approval. The re-establishment of trade union pluralism has been prohibited by law; labor mobility is strictly controlled and only those associations sanctioned by the regime are officially allowed to exist.

Military court jurisdiction over certain offenses committed by civilians continues after martial law. Military court trials may be closed to the public if the regime feels it is necessary because of "important state interests." Civilian lawyers must receive permission prior to appearing before a military court, and such permission is granted only to lawyers in good standing with the authorities. The right of the accused to select counsel of his own choosing is in this way reduced to selection from a group of political actors.

The situation is aggravated by the regime's constant harassment and intimidation of lawyers who represent political prisoners. The effect is to serve notice on attorneys that they will face reprisals for assisting those in disfavor with the government.

The amnesty of July 1984, while responsible for some improvements, is not an unconditional one: if an amnestied prisoner commits a similar offense before December 31, 1986, his amnesty will be revoked.

Released prisoners have faced job discrimination and frequent harassment. Some have been rearrested and detained. Six such Solidarity members went on trial October 17, 1984 on charges of stealing printing machinery. The equipment they allegedly stole was the property of a local Solidarity office and was apparently hidden by the accused when martial law was introduced.

Members of the underground, not imprisoned, were also offered amnesty provided they signed a confession and pledged to cease underground activity. When response to this offer proved minimal, security police began harassing members' families and holding individuals in detention until they agreed to confess.

On October 19, 1984, Rev. Jerzy Popieluszko, a Roman Catholic priest and vocal supporter of the outlawed Solidarity union, was kidnapped and later found dead. Three officers of the Interior Ministry have been charged with murder, and a colonel has been charged with assisting them. A lieutenant colonel may face disciplinary measures and a general has been suspended.

The Lawyers Committee report, *Poland Three Years After*, is available at the Lawyers Committee.

Sakharov Communication To UNESCO

On September 12 the Lawyers Committee submitted its ninth communication to UNESCO protesting the violations of Dr. Andrei Sakharov's human rights and requesting action by UNESCO's Committee on Conventions and Recommendations.

Challenging claims by the USSR representative to UNESCO, the Lawyers Committee's complaint charges that adequate facilities enabling Dr. Sakharov to pursue his scientific activities do not exist in Gorky. The submission also questions whether his health is being safeguarded. In preparing this and previous reports, the Lawyers Committee has relied on reports from Dr. Sakharov's family in the United States, and his friends here and elsewhere to contradict official Soviet statements. According to these reports, Dr. Sakharov has had almost no contact with scientific colleagues in Gorky and there is no evidence to substantiate Soviet claims that Dr. Sakharov has received medical care since April.

Since his confinement in Gorky, Dr. Sakharov's only link to the outside world has been his wife. In May of 1984, however, the Soviet government began a criminal prosecution against Ms. Bonner for allegedly slandering the Soviet Union and engaging in anti-Soviet activities, thus severing Dr. Sakharov's only remaining contact. In response to the charge against Ms. Bonner and the Soviet government's refusal to allow Ms. Bonner to travel abroad for medical treatment, Dr. Sakharov began a hunger strike.

Despite an August 22 videotape showing a seemingly healthy Dr. Sakharov, his step-daughter, Tatiana Yankelevich, reports that "reliable sources" in Moscow indicate that Dr. Sakharov was being treated with hypnosis and psychotropic drugs in Gorky's Semarhko hospital. Family members also assume that he was forcibly fed.

In late September, Dr. Sakharov's family received a postcard from Ms. Bonner, believed to have been written in early September, indicating that she was prohibited from leaving Gorky. No reference to either Dr. Sakharov or to the criminal proceedings against her was made. Consequently, it is assumed that at the time of writing the two were separated.

At the end of October the Yankeleviches received three more postcards. Two, signed only by Ms. Bonner, never mentioned Dr. Sakharov by name, though they were written in plural. If the plurals refer to Dr. Sakharov, as the family suspects, the two cards suggest that they have been re-united. Another postcard, signed by Yelena Bonner on behalf of Dr. Sakharov, has also sustained the hope that they are together.

In This Issue:

- Aliens' Rights
- Human Rights Legislation in Washington
- Malawian Lawyers Under Attack
- LCIHR Update

The Jerusalem Post, Dec. 24, 1984



Tatyana Yankelevich, the step-daughter of Soviet Nobel Peace Prize laureate and physicist Andrei Sakharov, arrives in Israel over the weekend. She attended the award ceremony of the Technion's Andrei Sakharov Science and Technology Journalism Prize, held at Beit Sokolow in Tel Aviv yesterday. Tatyana, who with her husband Yefrem was granted permission to leave the USSR in 1977, now lives near Boston. She said at the ceremony that as long as people can make informed and intelligent political choices, democracy will survive.

(Israel Simionsky)

Jerusalem of 110 years ago

has signed fir
 Sakharov step-daughter meets Herzog, Hillel

Jerusalem Post Reporter
 President Chaim Herzog yesterday expressed Israel's support for the efforts of Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov and "all lovers of peace and freedom" in the Soviet Union.
 Herzog held a private meeting at Beit Hanassi with Tatyana Yankelevich, 34, Sakharov's step-daughter. She lives near Boston and is in Israel

Gur to seek funds for Shaare Zedek

and hopes that the present situation, whereby lack of funds for personnel

Dean 27 1984

the food aid round
 the country
 as a guest of the Technion.
 "We as Jews have a natural sympathy for his struggle because Jews - refuseniks, Prisoners of Zion and supporters of Jewish culture - in the Soviet Union are also struggling for human rights," Herzog said.
 Yankelevich also called on Speaker Shlomo Hillel at his Knesset bureau.
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THE HUMAN RIGHTS AGENDA: THE SAKHAROV SAGA CONTINUES

PAGE ONE PROFILE: FIASCO IN GENEVA— THE U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS SUBCOMMISSION

—by Rick Trank

Despite the release of an authorized film depicting the Sakharovs in apparent good health in their USSR exile, the Sakharov children and other observers in the West refused to buy the idyllic scenes contained in the film. Fearing for their future, they approached the **United Nations** for help. This request was formally made by the **International League for Human Rights**, of which Andrei Sakharov is the honorary Moscow representative.

The Sakharov family and the International League for Human Rights brought the case to the Geneva, Switzerland headquarters of the United Nations. Acting as a delegate of the International League, **Sakharov's son-in-law Efrem Yankelevich** presented a proposal to the UN's **1984 Subcommission** to appoint an observer to travel to the USSR to meet with the Sakharovs in order to verify Soviet claims that they are in good health.

YANKELEVICH'S PLEA

In an impassioned plea to the UN Subcommission, Yankelevich explained that Dr. and Mrs. Sakharov have suffered great human rights abuses. He noted that for the most part the severe steps taken against them by Soviet authorities had been done so without formal charges ever having been filed against them (although official charges have since been filed against Mrs. Sakharov). **The couple's freedom of movement and ability to correspond with the West has been extremely limited by Soviet authorities as a punishment for Dr. Sakharov's outspokenness. And there is reason to believe that Dr. Sakharov has been subjected to a forced stay in a state mental hospital where he has been injected with mind-altering drugs.**

During his testimony, Yankelevich was interrupted by the Subcommission's chairman, who demanded that he conclude his remarks immediately. **"You have been speaking almost 13 minutes,"** he admonished. This same UN Subcommission notes **PAGE ONE** central European correspondent Lisa Schlein, had given representatives from various **Arab and Eastern bloc nations hours and sometimes days** at a time to report their allegations of Israeli "human rights abuses" of Palestinian Arabs. Special sessions of the Subcommission have been devoted to these charges, which, for the most part, have never been verified by independent international human rights organizations, such as Amnesty International. Observers, therefore, found it somewhat difficult to believe that the Subcommission chair would object to remarks approximately 13 minutes in length regarding one of the world's leading human rights activists. Choosing not to incur further wrath from the Subcommission chair, Efrem Yankelevich chose to sum up his remarks immediately.

SOVIETS BLOCK WALLEMBERG INQUIRY

The Chairman's impatience with Yankelevich did not augur well for the resolution's chances of passing. Nina Shea, Program Director and Attorney for the International League for Human Rights, told Ms. Schlein that the USSR was trying to derail the request on behalf of the Sakharovs. Alternate **United States member to the Subcommission John Carey**, confirmed to Schlein that the Soviets had presented numerous obstacles to the U.S., Canada and Great Britain sponsored resolution, by



Tatiana Yankelevich appealed for her mother and step-father in Los Angeles.

offering a long list of proposals that would have condemned the U.S. and Canada among others, for mistreatment of North American Indians. Later, according to both John Carey and Nina Shea, the Soviet representative offered to drop his resolutions if the United States agreed to back down on the Sakharov issue and a resolution dealing with the lost hero of the Holocaust, Raoul Wallenberg. An adamant John Carey replied to the Soviet—"We have no intentions of backing down . . ." and accused the Soviets of the most cynical of tactics presenting their resolutions.

COLLUSION BY FRANCE, GREECE AND BELGIUM

Attorney Shea went on to accuse several Western nations of complicity with the USSR in delaying a vote on the Sakharov proposal. Among the countries she accused were France, Greece, and Belgium. Ms. Shea told **PAGE ONE's** Lisa Schlein that **these Western nations saw the Sakharov issue as an East/West political football and not as a fundamental question of human rights.** Not wanting to see the Subcommission break down because of what they considered to be a "Cold War" quarrel, discussion of the Sakharov and the Wallenberg resolutions were delayed until there was no adequate time to properly vote on them. While an angry John Shea demanded that both proposals be included in the permanent record of this year's Subcommission, the plight of Andrei Sakharov and Yelena Bonner Sakharov are non-issues as far as the United Nations human rights watchdog is concerned.

Although the Subcommission will reconvene in May of 1985 for a new round of hearings, there is no guarantee that the Sakharov issue will be on the agenda. **PAGE ONE** will continue to monitor the activities of the Subcommission in the coming months. ■

Mr. Trank is the Director of Media Projects for the Wiesenthal Center and Executive Producer of **PAGE ONE** Radio Magazine.

The Sakharov Case Continues . . .

On many fronts, the League has continued to work to improve the plight of Dr. Andrei Sakharov and his wife, Elena Bonner.

Last August, Dr. Sakharov's son-in-law, Efrem Yankelevich, petitioned the United Nations Human Rights Subcommission in Geneva to name a special representative to travel to the Soviet Union to investigate and ascertain Dr. Sakharov's circumstances. Mr. Yankelevich, who is Dr. Sakharov's legal representative in the West, spoke before the Subcommission as a representative of the League.

Later that month, distressed over reports of their colleague's deteriorating condition, 36 Nobel laureates sent a telegram to the very same UN Subcommission before which Mr. Yankelevich had spoken, asking that it send an urgent letter of appeal to Soviet President Chernenko about Dr. Sakharov's condition. The cable was organized by the League and the Committee of Concerned Scientists. Among the signatories were Linus C. Pauling, Rosalyn Yalow, and George Wald.

The League, which petitioned the UN Working Group on Disappearances on behalf of the Sakharovs last June, approached the Group again in September with new documented information pertinent to the case.

Also in September, the League held a screening of a Soviet Government film released in late August purporting to show, in heavy-handed terms, that the Sakharovs are leading healthy comfortable lives in the industrial city of Gorky. At a discussion following the screening, several people who knew the Sakharovs remarked that Dr. Sakharov appeared aged, slow, and possibly drugged, and that the Russian narration was openly contemptuous of the Sakharovs. Furthermore, the film which was ostensibly current, had been rather crudely culled from clips over a six- to eight-year time span. It showed Dr. Sakharov in a hospital gown in an unidentified institution. Mrs. Sakharov was shown in various situations, including walking into the Gorky courthouse where she was facing charges related to her human rights activities.

Still unconfirmed reports now indicate that Mrs. Sakharov, the physicist's last link to the Moscow human rights community and the world press, has been tried and sentenced to internal exile for "defaming the Soviet state".



Andrei Sakharov



Elena Bonner
Family photos of the Sakharovs in March 1984



Efrem Yankelevich preparing to present appeal for Sakharovs to UN Subcommission



Tanya Yankelevich shows Soviet film of her parents at League Board meeting

Recently, the Sakharov children in Massachusetts have received several postcards apparently in Elena Bonner Sakharov's handwriting. These, and a curious posed photograph, suggest that Soviet reports that Dr. Sakharov has been allowed to return to his apartment may be correct. However, the family has been unable to establish any direct contact with either Dr. or Mrs. Sakharov, for example by telephone. Moreover, no outsider has been allowed to see them or ascertain their conditions.

The League is continuing to press in various ways to encourage the Soviet authorities to permit such contact with the Sakharovs, and to permit Mrs. Sakharov to travel to the West for urgently needed medical care.



League Representatives at Press Conference in Geneva. (R to L: Jack David, Efrem Yankelevich, Sidney Liskofsky)

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

F- SS → Walt Raymond
Su Prop WG 2885
~~Reading~~ 138

CONFIDENTIAL

April 16, 1985

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DECLASSIFIED

NLRR M326/2 #132389

BY RW NARA DATE 6/8/86

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. McFARLANE

FROM: JOHN LENCZOWSKI JL

SUBJECT: Wick Proposal to Exchange TV Appearances With Soviets

Charlie Wick has written the President a letter (Tab A) informing him of his proposals to Leonid Zamyatin, Chief of the CPSU's International Information Department (see Tab A-A). These proposals are:

1. To arrange for a top U.S. official to appear on Soviet TV while a top Soviet official would appear on U.S. TV; and
2. To arrange for Soviet journalists to interview top U.S. officials on Worldnet, while American journalists would interview top Soviet officials.

The Soviets, however, have not replied. Nevertheless, Wick notes that we have gained some political mileage out of this proposal, since 66 members of Congress have written to express their support of the idea (Tab A-B).

Although there has not been progress on this for over two months, the President should still be made aware of the status of these proposals. He may want to consider putting some pressure on the Soviets to be a little more forthcoming, especially if we want our dialogue with them to be conducted on reciprocal terms and not solely on their terms. After all, the Soviets get published constantly in all our major newspapers and appear regularly on TV news shows such as "Nightline." If we were to publicize a comparison of the number of times they appear on our media to the number of times we appear on theirs, they might want to consider Wick's proposal more seriously.

good idea!

At Tab I is a memo forwarding Wick's letter to the President. You may also want to discuss these proposals with the President, who could publicly mention them at some point himself.

Since I think it would damage our credibility if we permit the Soviets to avoid this issue by not responding, and since the Soviets take the principle of reciprocity as seriously as they do, I think we should raise the issue with them at the diplomatic working level. At Tab II is a memo from Kimmitt to Platt recommending this action.

agree

CONFIDENTIAL

Declassify on: OADR

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If you think it appropriate, I have also attached a memo from you to Wick recommending that he publicize the lack of reciprocity in media appearances to pressure the Soviets on this issue (Tab III).

w
Walt Raymond, Jack Matlock *JRM* and Steve Sestanovich *SRS* concur.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. That you sign the memorandum at Tab I forwarding the Wick letter to the President.

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

- 2. That you discuss the proposals with the President and raise the possibility of his repeating them publicly.

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

- 3. That you authorize Bob Kimmitt to sign the memorandum to Nicholas Platt at Tab II recommending that State raise the issue with the Soviets.

- 4. That you sign the memo to Wick at Tab II recommending that he publicize the lack of reciprocity in media appearances.

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

Attachments:

Tab I Memorandum to the President

Tab A Mr. Wick's letter to the President, April 5

Tab II Proposed Memorandum Kimmitt to Platt

Tab III Proposed Memorandum to Mr. Wick

WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name
Raymond, Walter: Files

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132390	MEMO ROBERT MCFARLANE TO THE PRESIDENT RE WICK PROPOSAL	1	ND	B1

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]**
- B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]**
- B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]**
- B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]**
- B-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]**
- B-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]**
- B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]**
- B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]**

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

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A. Kingon

**United States
Information
Agency**

Washington, D.C. 20547

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2885
Director



April 5, 1985

Dear Mr. President:

I wish to apprise you of a recent development concerning the proposal made by me to Mr. Leonid M. Zamyatin, Chief of the International Information Department of the Soviet Communist Party, for a constructive dialogue via international satellite television.

On January 25, I extended two concrete offers to Mr. Zamyatin:

1. To arrange for a top level Soviet official to appear on American television if Mr. Zamyatin would do likewise for a top American official on Soviet television;

2. To plan a one-to-two hour satellite television dialogue on USIA's WORLDNET satellite facilities in which Soviet journalists would interview U.S. officials on issues of mutual concern. This would be reciprocated by a similar program in which American journalists would freely and spontaneously question senior Soviet officials. (See Tab A)

As you may recall, this proposal was in response to an article published by Mr. Zamyatin in the Russian language magazine Literaturnaya Gazeta entitled "Impasses of Confrontations and Horizons of Cooperation." In this article, Mr. Zamyatin sharply criticized the international activities of USIA and charged it with "television propaganda aggression."

In response, I said that "permitting a free flow of information is in the best interests of both our societies and a necessary response to the times." And, for this reason, I urged him to respond favorably to my proposal.

To date, we have received no reply.

The President
The White House

K2

-2-

However, domestic support is beginning to grow. On March 28, I received in my office a letter signed by 66 members of the U.S. House of Representatives. This letter, bipartisan in nature and representative of a broad political spectrum, expresses strong support for the Zamyatin initiative. (See Tab B).

I shall keep you informed of other developments on this matter as they unfold.

Sincerely,

Charles Z. Wick

(Dictated but not signed by the
Director in his absence from the office.)

||

**United States
Information
Agency**

Washington, D.C. 20547

Office of the Director



January 25, 1985

Mr. Leonid M. Zamyatin
Chief, International Information Department
Central Committee, Communist Party of The Soviet Union
Staraya Ploshchad' 4
Moscow, USSR

Dear Mr. Zamyatin:

In recent months Soviet media have levied a number of attacks on U.S. public diplomacy and the U.S. Information Agency, especially on the Voice of America and our new WORLDNET satellite television service. Your article in Literaturnaya Gazeta ["Impasses of Confrontations and Horizons of Cooperation," November 28, 1984] summarizes most of the charges and typifies the underlying mindset. I am prompted to respond at this time to the continuing stream of attacks because in a period when our two governments are engaged in serious exploration of vital issues, such attacks are a disservice to more positive relations.

My hope is to generate a constructive dialogue. To initiate that dialogue I extend two concrete offers. First, I ask that you offer your good offices to facilitate using broadcast media to further mutual understanding. In this regard, I suggest that you arrange for Soviet television to carry an address by one of our top leaders which would be reciprocated on American television by one of your top leaders. There is a precedent for this: Mr. Brezhnev and Mr. Nixon made such speeches several years ago with considerable positive effect.

Second, I propose that we carry further the dialogue by having you and other Soviet officials and journalists take part in the WORLDNET program of which you are so critical. Let us jointly plan a one- to two-hour satellite television dialogue on WORLDNET in which Soviet journalists interview senior U.S. officials on issues of mutual concern. At the same time, you should plan with U.S. media a similar program in which American journalists freely and spontaneously question senior Soviet officials. Coming at this important time in our relations, such ventures could help make communication more reasoned and reciprocal.

Incidentally, I am not surprised by your unwarranted criticisms of WORLDNET and of our Agency. I have come to expect it. However, you should understand that our country does not claim, as you do, that opposing ideas "subvert" our system. We recognize instead that diversity of public opinion is one of the great strengths of America. Thus, our society freely permits Soviet spokesmen

to state their views on American television and in print. In this regard, I might note that Soviet journalists and Soviet officials are interviewed on American television literally dozens of times per year. Surely the time has come for greater equality of treatment.

If the United States can confidently tolerate opposing views without fears of "loosening" the system, why then should the Soviet government act so restrictively, even to the point of jamming our broadcasts in direct violation of several international agreements to which the USSR is a signatory? Why not allow greater independent public inquiry about your government's decisions and policies? Why should American officials, in turn, not be permitted to state their views on Soviet television and in the Soviet media? Our society has never walked away from a fair challenge, and we look forward to engaging in a peaceful contest of ideas with the USSR.

Your article is evidence of the need for this reasoned and open dialogue. Charges of "piracy of the air," "radio warfare," "subversive purpose," and "television propaganda aggression" only exacerbate the "impasses" and "confrontations" to which you allude and delay our search for "horizons of cooperation." Coming at this time, when the leaders of our two countries are seeking new means for considering meaningful arms reduction efforts and ways to stabilize relations, your attacks are most unfortunate. Surely, everyone concerned about U.S.-Soviet relations has a right to expect greater restraint and accuracy.

Although I will not attempt in this letter to deal with the many errors and distortions in your article, I would like to clarify the role and purpose of the U.S. Information Agency, particularly the Voice of America and WORLDNET.

- USIA is not in the business of misrepresenting Soviet foreign policy, as you allege. Its primary purpose is to present America to the rest of the world and to explain U.S. foreign and domestic policies to people around the world. In so doing, we present the news, good and bad.
- The Voice of America is a distinguished source of news and information about the United States -- our policies, society, culture, and values. By U.S. law, VOA is required to present "accurate, objective, and comprehensive" information, to be truthful, and to be "seen as a consistently reliable and authoritative source of news." Over 100 million people throughout the world listen to VOA each week, all voluntarily, many of them at risk to their safety.
- In modernizing and improving our communication facilities and seeking a wider audience, our purpose is to allow a greater proportion of the world's population to know what is going on in the world and be better able to reach independent judgments on these events.
- WORLDNET is a modern television system linking Washington via satellite with U.S. embassies, information centers, and a number of TV studios throughout the world. WORLDNET is not forced on receiving nations.

Journalists in the participating nations freely choose the programming that they wish to broadcast or write about or not use at all.

- WORLDNET enables foreign journalists to ask probing, unrehearsed questions instantaneously, via satellite, directly to high-level American officials. Your representatives from TASS, Pravda and other Soviet publications are welcome at official U.S. press conferences. They are welcome, too, as observers in our WORLDNET studio.

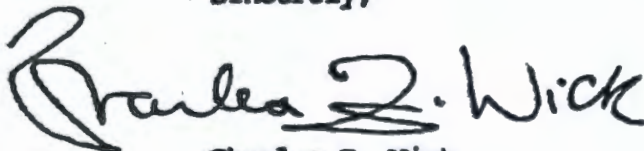
Permitting a free flow of information is in the best interests of both our societies and a necessary response to the times. The irreversible revolution in communications, enabling prompt and comprehensive dissemination of news, will make it increasingly harder to limit peoples' access to information.

All nations should ultimately welcome this: misunderstanding and ignorance only serve to exacerbate tensions in the conduct of international relations. Our nations need to know more about each other; we Americans are firmly committed to providing the peoples of the Soviet Union -- and the world community -- with an accurate picture of the United States. Similarly, we hope to broaden our nation's understanding of the USSR.

I hope that you will enable Soviet journalists and television commentators to participate actively, and very soon, in WORLDNET interviews of U.S. leaders to be broadcast in the USSR. In turn, American journalists should have an equal opportunity to interview your leaders for broadcast in the USA. This direct dialogue would broaden the "horizons of cooperation" that you did not discuss in your article, but that you, too, must want to see attained.

I look forward to your response to my offers that we exchange televised interviews by top U.S. and Soviet leaders and that Soviet journalists and officials participate in a WORLDNET dialogue with senior U.S. officials on issues of mutual concern.

Sincerely,



Charles Z. Wick
Director

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X

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

March 21, 1985

Dear Mr. Wick,

We are writing to you today to express our support for your recent proposal to Mr. Leonid M. Zamyatin, Chief of the International Information Department of the Soviet Union, to initiate a constructive dialogue with the United States to further mutual understanding.

We are convinced that increased communication between the United States and the Soviet Union will reduce the chance of conflict caused by misunderstanding. A program to increase communication could be effectively implemented through the following two proposals outlined in your letter to Mr. Zamyatin.


First, the offer to use your offices to arrange for a high level Soviet official to appear on American television if Mr. Zamyatin would do likewise for a top American official on Soviet television.

Second, your proposal to begin the joint planning of a one-to-two hour satellite television dialogue on USIA's Worldnet satellite facilities in which Soviet journalists would interview U.S. officials on issues of mutual concern. This would be reciprocated by a similar program in which American journalists would freely and spontaneously question Soviet officials.

In conclusion, we strongly agree with your statement that, "permitting a free flow of information is in the best interests of both our societies and a necessary response to the times."

We, the undersigned Members of Congress, would like to lend our support to further the implementation of your proposal. Only by opening new avenues of communication can we hope to establish a more peaceful and open relationship with the Soviet Union.

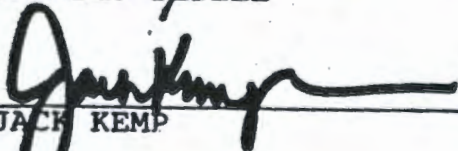
Sincerely,


DICK ARMEY


BARNEY FRANK


ROBERT H. MICHEL


BERKLEY BEDELL


JACK KEMP


EDWARD J. MARKEY

Jim Jeffords
James M. Jeffords

Silvio O. Conte
Silvio O. Conte

Frank Horton
Frank Horton

Helen Delich Bentley
Helen Delich Bentley

Arlan Stangeland
Arlan Stangeland

Harry M. Reid
Harry M. Reid

Bill Lowery
Bill Lowery

John E. Grothberg
John E. Grothberg

Jim Saxton
Jim Saxton

Austin J. Murphey
Austin J. Murphey

Trent Lott
Trent Lott

Michael DeWine
Michael DeWine

Nancy L. Johnson
Nancy L. Johnson

Tom Loeffler
Tom Loeffler

Bill Frenzel
Bill Frenzel

Jim Courter
Jim Courter

Ed Markey
Edward J. Markey

Ben Gilman
Benjamin A. Gilman

Jim Beach
Jim Beach

Beau Boulter
Beau Boulter

Tom DeLay
Tom DeLay

Robert J. Lagomarsino
Robert J. Lagomarsino

Connie Mack
Connie Mack

Dan Lungren
Dan Lungren

John E. Porter
John E. Porter

Bill Archer
Bill Archer

Bill Danner
Bill Danner

Duncan Hunter
Duncan Hunter

Lynn Martin
Lynn Martin

William M. Hendon
William M. Hendon

Carroll Campbell

Mark D. Siljander

Rod Chandler

Hal Rogers

Robert R. Dornan

Vin Weber

David Dreier

Jim Moody

Bruce A. Morrison

John R. Miller

Marcy Kaptur

John M. Spratt, Jr.

William O. Lipinski

Robert J. Mrazek

Bruce A. Morrison

Chris Smith

Stephen L. Neal

Robert S. Walker

Candiss Collins

Howard L. Berman

Steve Bartlett

Raymond J. McGrath

George J. Wortley

Jack Fields

Dan Coats

James V. Hansen

Tim Valentine

Mickey Leland

Bob McEwen

Martin Frost

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**United States
Information
Agency**

Washington, D.C. 20547

Office of the Director

2885



April 9, 1985

Dear Kathy:

Enclosed is a letter to the President which the Director dictated prior to his trip to Europe.

Mr. Wick would appreciate it if you could bring it to the attention of the President as soon as possible.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Patricia Siemien
Special Assistant
to the Director

Ms. Kathleen Osborne
Personal Secretary to the President
The White House

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132391	MEMO FOR NICHOLAS PLATT RE WICK PROPOSAL	1	ND	B1

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]**
- B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]**
- B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]**
- B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]**
- B-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]**
- B-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]**
- B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]**
- B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]**

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132392	MEMO TO CHARLES WICK RE PROPOSAL	1	ND	B1

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]**
- B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]**
- B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]**
- B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]**
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- B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]**

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