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WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name MATLOCK, JACK: FILES

Withdrawer

JET 5/3/2005

File Folder DISSIDENTS (23/23)

FOIA

F06-114/7

Box Number 24

YARHI-MILO

2407

ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
9537	LETTER	PRESIDENT REAGAN TO GORBACHEV RE MATVEY FINKEL [17 - 17]	1	ND	B1
		R	7/7/2008	NLRRF06-114/7	

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

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

November 21, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR RODNEY B. MCDANIEL

FROM: PAULA DOBRIANSKY^{?)}

SUBJECT: Letters to President from Waxman and Gilman

Congressmen Waxman and Gilman sent letters to the President (Tab B) regarding the cases of several Soviet dissidents: Ida Nudel, Andrei Sakharov, Iosef Begun, Yuri Orlov, Vladimir and Maria Slepak. At Tab I is a memorandum from you to Kathy Jaffke forwarding draft responses (Tab A).

Ma ~~Ma~~ *lock*, *S* ~~S~~ *apple*, and *M* ~~M~~ *andel* concur.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memoradum to Kathy Jaffke at Tab I.

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

Attachments

Tab I McDaniel/Jaffke
 Tab A Draft Responses
 Tab B Waxman/Gilman letters

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

6991

MEMORANDUM FOR KATHY JAFFKE

FROM: RODNEY B. MCDANIEL

SUBJECT: Letters to President from Waxman and Gilman

In connection with the Daniloff incident, Congressmen Waxman and Gilman sent letters to the President (Tab B) regarding the release of the following Soviet dissidents: Ida Nudel, Andrei Sakharov, Iosef Begun, Yuri Orlov, Vladimir and Maria Slepak. At Tab A are the suggested replies.

Attachments

Tab A Draft Responses
Tab B Waxman/Gilman letters

UNCLASSIFIED
(CLASSIFICATION)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
TRANSMITTAL FORM

S/S 8631445

DATE November 7, 1986

FOR: VADM JOHN M. POINDEXTER
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
THE WHITE HOUSE

REFERENCE:

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN FROM: CONGRESSMEN WAXMAN AND GILMAN

DATE: SEPTEMBER 24, 1986 SUBJECT: FREEING OF A SOVIET
DISSIDENT

REFERRAL DATED: OCTOBER 7, 1986 ID# 427950/450857
(IF ANY)

 THE ATTACHED ITEM WAS SENT DIRECTLY TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION TAKEN:

- X A DRAFT REPLY IS ATTACHED.
 A DRAFT REPLY WILL BE FORWARDED.
 A TRANSLATION IS ATTACHED.
 AN INFORMATION COPY OF A DIRECT REPLY IS ATTACHED.
 WE BELIEVE NO RESPONSE IS NECESSARY FOR THE REASON
CITED BELOW.
 THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAS NO OBJECTION TO THE
PROPOSED TRAVEL.
 OTHER.

REMARKS:

for Linda Sachs
NICHOLAS PLATT
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

UNCLASSIFIED
(CLASSIFICATION)

STATE DEPARTMENT

DRAFT REPLY

Dear Mr. Waxman:

I am replying to your letters of September 24 to President Reagan and Admiral Poindexter regarding Soviet refusenik and former prisoner of conscience Ida Nudel.

We appreciate your suggestion regarding the inclusion of Ida Nudel in an exchange with the Soviet Union. As you know, U.S. News and World Report correspondent Nicholas Daniloff was released on September 29 after thirty days of captivity in the U.S.S.R. The Soviets themselves indicated the extent to which the detention lacked justifiability by releasing Mr. Daniloff without trial, while the spy to whose fate they attempted to link him pleaded no contest to the charges he faced in New York. The Soviet authorities subsequently released dissident Yuri Orlov and he and his wife are now in the United States.

Ida Nudel's welfare is of deep concern to the U.S. Government. Her generosity and self-sacrificing efforts on behalf of hundreds of Jewish refuseniks have earned her widespread support and admiration in the West. U.S. officials have made special representations on her behalf and will continue to do so. Ida Nudel's sister, Mrs. Fridman, met with Secretary of

The Honorable

Henry A. Waxman,

House of Representatives.

State Shultz in 1985, with Deputy Secretary of State Whitehead earlier this year in order to discuss Ida's case, and with a senior member of the Secretary's party in Reykjavik.

In every high-level exchange with Soviet officials, including the recent meetings in Iceland between President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev, U.S. officials emphasize that human rights, including the treatment of Soviet Jews, is an important element in U.S.-Soviet relations. I can assure you that the U.S. Government will continue to take advantage of every appropriate opportunity to press the Soviet Union to honor its commitments under the Helsinki Final Act and other international agreements, and to allow those Soviet Jews who wish to leave the Soviet Union to do so.

Sincerely,

William A. Ball, III
Assistant to the President

STATE DEPARTMENT

DRAFT REPLY

Dear Mr. Gilman:

I am replying to your letter of September 25 to President Reagan regarding Andrei Sakharov, Iosef Begun, Yuriy Orlov, Vladimir and Maria Slepak, and Ida Nudel.

You wrote to suggest that these individuals be included in an exchange with the Soviet Union. As you know, U.S. News and World Report correspondent Nicholas Daniloff was released on September 29 after thirty days of captivity in the U.S.S.R. The Soviets themselves indicated the extent to which the detention lacked justifiability by releasing Mr. Daniloff without trial, while the spy to whose fate they attempted to link him pleaded no contest to the charges he faced in New York.

Mr. Orlov was subsequently released and he and his wife are now in the United States. While we in the U.S. Government who have followed Mr. Orlov's case closely over the years are very happy at this outcome, we cannot forget that many others, including those whom you mention in your letter, still remain in the Soviet Union under difficult circumstances. U.S. Government

The Honorable

Benjamin A. Gilman,

House of Representatives.

officials have made numerous special representations on behalf of Andrei Sakharov, Iosef Begun, Vladimir and Maria Slepak and Ida Nudel, and we will continue to do so.

In every high-level exchange with Soviet officials, including the recent meetings in Iceland between President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev, U.S. officials emphasize that human rights is an important element in U.S.-Soviet relations. I can assure you that we will persist in our efforts to persuade the Soviet Union to honor its commitments under the Helsinki Final Act and other international agreements to permit the exercise of basic human rights.

Sincerely,

William A. Ball, III

Assistant to the President

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

3631445

October 7, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR:

~~5/5~~
CATHY THIBODEAU
Congressional Correspondence
Department of State

FROM:

KATHY RATTE JAFFKE *ky*
Director, Congressional
Correspondence

SUBJECT:

Freeing of a Soviet Dissident

Attached are the letters that I mentioned to you today from Members who suggested specific Soviet dissidents that they would like to see released in connection with the Daniloff incident.

Congressman Henry Waxman wrote suggesting that Ida Nudel be released.

Congressman Ben Gilman offered names of several Soviet dissidents: Dr. Andrei Sakharov, Iosef Begun, Yuri Orlov, Vladimir and Maria Slepak and Ida Nudel.

I would appreciate State's guidance in a draft response for Will Ball's signature.

Thanks so much for your help.

cc: Records Management - FYI (ID# 427950, ID# 450857)

WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

JL003

3631445

O - OUTGOING

H - INTERNAL

I - INCOMING

Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 861 - 1

Name of Correspondent: Henry Waxman

MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Requests that Ida Nudel be considered as a Soviet dissident to be released in negotiations with the Soviets.

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>LABALL</u>	<u>ORIGINATOR</u>	<u>86110108</u>		<u>C</u>	<u>86110107</u>
<u>99STAT</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>86110108</u>			<u>1 1</u>
		<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
		<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
		<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>

ACTION CODES:

- A - Appropriate Action
- C - Comment/Recommendation
- D - Draft Response
- F - Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure

- I - Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary
- R - Direct Reply w/Copy
- S - For Signature
- X - Interim Reply

DISPOSITION CODES:

- A - Answered
- B - Non-Special Referral
- C - Completed
- S - Suspended

FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

- Type of Response = Initials of Signer
- Code = "A"
- Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: _____

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 Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.
 Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ID 8606991

REFERRAL

DATE: 02 OCT 86

MEMORANDUM FOR: KATHY JAFFKE

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION:

TO: PRESIDENT

SOURCE: WAXMAN, HENRY A

DATE: 24 SEP 86

KEYWORDS: USSR

HUMAN RIGHTS

NUDEL, IDA

MP

CO

SUBJ: LTRS TO PRES & JMP RE SOVIET DISSIDENT

REQUIRED ACTION: APPROPRIATE ACTION

DUE DATE:

COMMENTS: SINCE JMP LTR IS MERELY TRANSMITTING THE PRES LTR, WE ARE
SENDING TO YOU TO HANDLE, PERHAPS A STATE DRAFT?

FOR *Rodney B. McDaniel*
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

3631445

8

...BUILDING
DC 20515
225-3976
DISTRICT OFFICE:
8425 WEST 30 STREET
SUITE 400
LOS ANGELES, CA 90048
(213) 651-1040

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

COMMITTEES:
ENERGY AND COMMERCE
CHAIRMAN SUBCOMMITTEE ON
HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
SELECT COMMITTEE ON AGING
DEMOCRATIC STEERING AND
POLICY COMMITTEE
PHILIP M. SCHILRO
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

HENRY A. WAXMAN
24TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

September 24, 1986

Admiral John M. Poindexter
Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20506

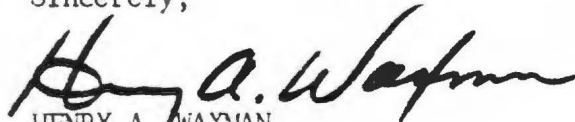
Dear Admiral Poindexter:

Two months ago, I wrote to you regarding Soviet refusenik and human rights advocate Ida Nudel, requesting that you transmit a letter about her to President Reagan.

Today's news regarding the possibility of a Soviet dissident being released as part of an agreement to free American journalist Nicholas Daniloff prompts me to write to you again about Ida. I do not presume to be able to rank the worthiness of Soviet dissidents. I simply wish to call attention to Ida's case and point out the tremendous work she has done over the years for the freedom of others.

If you would transmit this letter to the President I would be deeply appreciative. With many thanks for your assistance in the matter, I am

Sincerely,



HENRY A. WAXMAN
Member of Congress

HAW:nss
Enclosures

... BUILDING
... DC 20515
(202) 225-3976

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8425 WEST 3D STREET
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

HENRY A. WAXMAN
24TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEES:
ENERGY AND COMMERCE
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
PHILIP M. SCHLIRO
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

July 28, 1986

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

When my wife Janet and I toured Moscow in 1977, we had the privilege of being shown the city by an extraordinary woman. She was Ida Nudel, an economist and Jewish activist who a year later, after waiting for seven years for permission to emigrate to Israel, shocked Moscow by hanging a banner from her apartment window proclaiming: "KGB, GIVE ME A VISA."

We knew before arriving that Ida was extraordinary. She had played mother to the whole Moscow Jewish refusenik community--remembering the birthdays of prisoners, helping Hebrew teachers find interested students, arranging visits between foreigners and refuseniks. Her work had earned her the nickname "The Guardian Angel."

But the way she showed us the city was the most palpable demonstration of her courage and dedication. Everywhere we went, she showed us not museums and monuments, but the struggle of Jews to be Jews. "This is the apartment building where Yuli Edelshtein taught Hebrew," she would say, and where they finally got him." "And that is the hall where we used to meet for services. And here lives Tatyana Zunshain, who has been waiting for her husband to come back from the camps for three years. Who knows when his time will be up?"

Soon after our visit, Ida's own time began. In desperation the following year, she hung out her banner, and was charged by the authorities with "malicious hooliganism." The sentence was four years of internal exile in Siberia, where she was placed in a hostel with 60 male criminals. This treatment prompted a worldwide protest campaign, and she was moved from there to a small hut. She served out her four years there with only a dog as a companion.

At the end of four years, Ida asked to go back to her home in Moscow. She was refused, and told she could only live in the city of Bendery in Moldavia, which is closed to all foreigners. There she went, and has stayed since 1982.

President Ronald Reagan
July 28, 1986
Page Two

Not long ago, Ida's sister Elana Fridman visited me. The news of Ida was terrible: she is suffering from ulcers, as well as kidney and heart trouble. But worst of all, she is severely depressed--unable to see friends, unable to be with relatives, rarely able even to receive communication. It appears she is losing the quality that made her so extraordinary--her tenacity.

And so I sit down to write to you now. With the passage of Anatoly Shcharansky to freedom--such a wonderful event--and the prospect of another summit, the time may be right for the Soviets to make a gesture. Ida, now one of the best-known refuseniks, would be a good candidate. And so I ask: would you be willing to raise her case alone with General Secretary Gorbachev, or other appropriate Soviet officials?

Ida Nudel once said: "That scrap of paper we call a visa costs 900 rubels. But no one has measured the cost of the suffering paid for that piece of paper." Ida has helped so many other people in their suffering. We must try now to help her in hers. A personal appeal from you would be one of the strongest kinds of leverage we could bring to bear.

I thank you for your attention to this. I wish you the best, and I look forward to your response. With every best wish, I am

Sincerely,



HENRY A. WAXMAN
Member of Congress

HAW:nss

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: SEPTEMBER 26, 1986

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

SUBJECT: REQUESTS SOVIET DISSIDENTS ANDREI SAKHAROV,
IOSEF BEGUN, YURI ORLOV, VLADIMIR AND MARIA
SLEPAK AND IDA NUDEL BE CONSIDERED SHOULD AN
EXCHANGE BE CONSIDERED FOR NICOLAS DANILOFF

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
		ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C D
WILLIAM BALL		ORG	86/09/26		
<i>99STAT</i>	REFERRAL NOTE: _____	<i>D</i>	<i>86/10/08</i>		<i>86/10/07</i>
	REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
	REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
	REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
	REFERRAL NOTE: _____				

COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1240
MAIL USER CODES: (A) (B) (C)

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*****
*ACTION CODES:          *DISPOSITION          *OUTGOING          *
*                      *                      *CORRESPONDENCE:  *
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION  *A-ANSWERED          *TYPE RESP=INITIALS *
*C-COMMENT/RECOM       *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL *          OF SIGNER    *
*D-DRAFT RESPONSE      *C-COMPLETED        *          CODE = A    *
*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET  *S-SUSPENDED        *COMPLETED = DATE OF *
*I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC*                      *          OUTGOING  *
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *                      *                      *
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE       *                      *                      *
*X-INTERIM REPLY       *                      *                      *
*****

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REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE
(ROOM 75,OEOB) EXT-2590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
MANAGEMENT.

BENJAMIN A. GILMAN
22ND DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEES:
FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEES:
EUROPE AND MIDDLE EAST
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

September 25, 1986

COMMITTEES
POST OFFICE AND CIVIL SERVICE

SUBCOMMITTEES
INVESTIGATIONS
HUMAN RESOURCES

SELECT COMMITTEE ON
NARCOTICS ABUSE AND
CONTROL
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

SELECT COMMITTEE ON
HUNGER

VICE CHAIRMAN,
TASK FORCE ON
AMERICAN PRISONERS AND
MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Owing to the nature of our bilateral relations with the Soviet Union, and because in recent months the precedent has been established, I would respectfully suggest that should an exchange of dissidents be included in the current negotiations regarding Nicolas Daniloff, that the following individuals be considered:

Dr. Andrei Sakharov - A Nobel Peace Prize winner and leading human rights activist, Dr. Sakharov is currently confined to the closed Soviet city of Gorky, reunited once more with his wife, Dr. Yelena Bonner. Clearly these two individuals are being confined for baseless reasons, and their stature in the international human rights community requires their freedom.

Iosef Begun - A Hebrew teacher and Soviet Jewish human rights activist, Dr. Begun is currently serving his third prison term. His health remains extremely precarious.

Yuri Orlov - Founding member of the Moscow Helsinki Monitoring Group, Dr. Yuri Orlov is currently serving a term of exile in Siberia. His leadership gave rise to the many Helsinki Monitoring Groups established in the Soviet Union.

Vladimir and Maria Slepak - longtime Soviet Jewish refuseniks, Mr. and Mrs. Slepak continue to provide the Moscow Soviet Jewish community with the spiritual nourishment that is so sorely needed. They dutifully accompany those emigrating from the Soviet Union to the airport, yet years continue to pass them by in their own quest to be reunited with their family in Israel. This couple has also served a term in exile.

Ida Nudel - Known to all as the "Guardian Angel", Ida Nudel was sentenced to a five year term in exile for hanging a banner from her Moscow apartment window in which she exhorted "KGB, give me my visa!" Alone and unwell, Ida only found refuge after her term was served in the remote Moldavian city of Bendery, where she continues to be harassed. This courageous woman has dedicated her life to the many refuseniks and prisoners of conscience in the Soviet Union, selflessly caring for them while she languishes alone waiting to join her only relative, her sister, in Israel.

Mr. President, you have provided the leadership on human rights for which

PLEASE REPLY TO:

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2160 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON DC 20515

☐ TELEPHONE (202) 225-3778

DISTRICT OFFICE:
44 EAST AVENUE
P.O. BOX 358

MIDDLETOWN, NY 10940
☐ TELEPHONE (914) 343-6668

DISTRICT OFFICE:
190 BROADWAY
MONTICELLO, NY 12701

☐ TELEPHONE (914) 798-1621

DISTRICT OFFICE:
223 ROUTE 59
MONSEY, NY 10952

☐ TELEPHONE (914) 357-9000

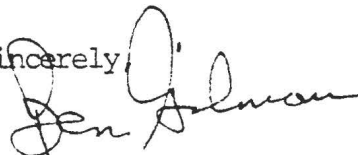
DISTRICT OFFICE:
32 MAIN STREET
HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON
NY 10706

☐ TELEPHONE (914) 478-5553

there is no reward other than the saving of a human life. Yet that is the most sacred deed one could ask for. Your ongoing commitment to these and so many other human rights activists in the Soviet Union is greatly appreciated, and we all hope that the release of these men and women can be realized in the near future.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ben Gilman". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

BENJAMIN A. GILMAN
Member of Congress

BAG/db

2418 HAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3978

DISTRICT OFFICE:
8425 WEST 3D STREET
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3631445

COMMITTEES:
ENERGY AND COMMERCE
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
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DEMOCRATIC STEERING AND
POLICY COMMITTEE
PHILIP M. SCHILIRO
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

HENRY A. WAXMAN
24TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

450857

September 24, 1986

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:


Two months ago, I wrote to you about the Soviet economist, human rights activist, and political prisoner, Ida Nudel. I said in that letter (a copy of which I enclose), that Ida is a hero to me and, I think, an inspiration to all who value individual rights.

I write today because of this morning's press reports that a Soviet dissident may be released as part of an agreement to free American journalist Nicholas Daniloff. I do not want to presume that these reports are true. But if they are, I simply want to ask that you consider Ida Nudel's case as you go through the negotiations.

This request, of course, is not meant to minimize the worthiness of the great many dissidents whose cases cry out for resolution--it so difficult to make judgments of this kind. Ida's courage and dedication to others over the last 15 years, however, is truly astounding. To bring her freedom now, with her health failing and spirit more encumbered than it has ever been, would be a tremendous act of mercy and justice.

I thank you for your kind attention to this matter and wish you the best in your current negotiations. With all best wishes, I am

Sincerely,


HENRY A. WAXMAN
Member of Congress

HAW:nss
Enclosure

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

November 26, 1986

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR JOHN M. POINDEXTER

FROM: PAULA DOBRIANSKY ^{TD}

SUBJECT: Letters to General Secretary Gorbachev
and Mr. & Mrs. Robert Graham

Attached at Tab I is a memorandum for the President forwarding a letter to Mr. & Mrs. Graham (Tab B), whom he met in Spokane, Washington. During this visit, the Grahams appealed to the President to seek the resolution of their daughter's case. Susan Graham has been married to Matvey Finkel, a Soviet national, for seven years. She is expecting a child in December and hopes her husband will be granted an exit visit to leave the Soviet Union before the end of this year.

Also, attached at Tab A is a letter from the President to General Secretary Gorbachev communicating his concern about the Graham-Finkel case. Speechwriters have cleared the text.

Jack ^{jm} Matlock and State concur.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memorandum for the President at Tab I.

Approve _____

Disapprove _____

Attachments

Tab I	Memo for President
Tab A	Letter to Gorbachev
Tab B	Letter to Grahams
Tab C	Incoming Correspondence

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

8154

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: JOHN M. POINDEXTER

SUBJECT: Letters to General Secretary Gorbachev
and Mr. & Mrs. Graham

Issue

Letters to General Secretary Gorbachev and Mr. & Mrs. Graham.

Facts

You met with Mr. & Mrs. Graham in Spokane, Washington, on October 31. During this meeting, the Grahams appealed to you to seek the resolution of their daughter's case. Susan Graham has been married to Matvey Finkel, a Soviet national, for seven years. She is expecting a child in December and hopes her husband will be granted an exit visa to leave the Soviet Union before the end of this year.

Discussion

Per your request, attached at Tab A is a letter from you to General Secretary Gorbachev communicating your concern about the Graham-Finkel case. Attached at Tab B is a letter from you to Mr. & Mrs. Graham informing them that you have sent a letter to Gorbachev on behalf of their daughter.

Recommendation

OK

No

That you sign the letters to
General Secretary Gorbachev and to
Mr. & Mrs. Graham.

Attachments

Tab A Letter to Gorbachev
Tab B Letter to Grahams
Tab C Incoming Correspondence

Prepared by:
Paula Dobriansky

DECLASSIFIED/RELEASED

NLRR FOI-114/779537

BY CW NARADATE 7/7/08

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Mr. General Secretary:

Since the opening of the Vienna Review Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, we have noted that you have resolved a number of family reunification cases. We welcome your actions.

In this regard, I would like to bring to your attention the case of Matvey Finkel, a Soviet national, who has been married to Susan Graham, an American citizen, for seven years. During this time, they have been faced with considerable adversity. In order to be with her husband, Susan gave up her teaching job at a U.S. university and moved to Moscow. Presently, she is expecting a child by the end of December and has returned to the United States for the birth. Matvey has been denied a permit to emigrate to the United States ten times. His most recent request to emigrate has been denied again and his internal passport has been confiscated by the police.

During our meeting in Geneva, you indicated that divided spouse cases would be given prompt attention. Most recently, you have approved a series of measures designed to regularize and expedite such cases. A positive decision in this case would be a most welcome sign that you intend to implement fully these measures. I urge your personal intervention so that Matvey will be reunited with his wife.

Sincerely,

His Excellency
Mikhail S. Gorbachev
General Secretary of the Central Committee
of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union
The Kremlin
Moscow

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

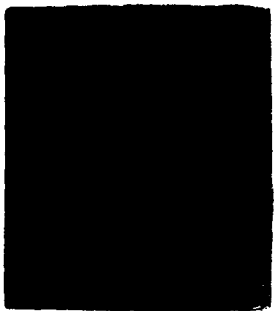
Dear Mr. & Mrs. Graham:

I was pleased to have had the opportunity to meet with you during my recent visit to Spokane. I was deeply moved by your daughter's plight and have communicated my concerns to General Secretary Gorbachev. Specifically, I have urged him to permit Susan's husband, Matvey Finkel, to emigrate to the United States in December of this year.

God bless you.

Sincerely,

Mr. & Mrs. Robert H. Graham
East 1527 Rockwood Boulevard
Spokane, Washington 99203



- Robert and Anna Mae Graham are residents of Spokane, Washington. Their daughter, Susan, is married to Matvey Finkel -- a Soviet citizen.
- She is seven months pregnant and will return to the U. S. to have the baby.
- The Soviets have confiscated his passport.

- Anna Mae, I am very sorry to hear of the plight of your daughter and son-in-law.
- We strongly disagree with the Soviet's policy on immigration.
- I have made that very clear to General Secretary Gorbachev -- most recently during my conversation with him in Iceland.
- We will continue to push the Soviets to liberalize their immigration policy.

Robert H. Graham

E. 1527 Rockwood Blvd., Spokane, WA 99203
(509)535-8348 or (509)292-2680

October 30, 1986
Spokane, WA

Dear President Reagan:

I have requested a brief meeting with you to ask for your help for my daughter, Susan, and her husband, Matvey Finkel. Matvey is a Soviet citizen living in Moscow. He and Susan have been married for seven years and his applications for emigration have consistently been denied, a direct violation by the Soviets of the Helsinki Accords.

Susan is now seven months pregnant with their first child and will be leaving the Soviet Union shortly to come home to Spokane for the birth of the baby. They have asked for help from many sources including you, the State Department, Rep. Thomas Foley, Sen. Slade Gorton and the late Sen. Henry Jackson. I wrote to Mrs. Reagan shortly before your meeting with Gen. Secretary Gorbachev in Iceland hoping she might be able to help.

Last month while Susan was in Washington, D.C. for a meeting of the Divided Spouses Coalition with Deputy Secretary Whitehead, Matvey was arrested and interrogated for many hours within a four-day period. Tuesday both Susan and Matvey were detained by the KGB and interrogated for three hours. At that time Matvey was threatened with internal exile. We are concerned for his safety once Susan leaves the Soviet Union.

The situation in Moscow is desperate. Susan was denied medical care at the U. S. Embassy clinic in Moscow because she is "only a Nanny" for a correspondent. This seems unbelievable as she is well-acquainted at the Embassy and has gone to the clinic many times in the past three years for medical assistance. She has seen a doctor only three times during her pregnancy, twice in Sweden and last month in Washington, D.C.


I feel that if we are to continue to have cultural exchanges between the Soviet Union and our own country, we will have Soviet-American marriages. To have 20 other couples currently in the same dilemma as our daughter is unconscionable.

In the past 24 hour period I have collected several hundred signatures from concerned citizens in Spokane who support the resolution of our dilemma.

Mr. President, I urge you to contact Secretary Gorbachev today and persuade him to allow Matvey to leave the Soviet Union with his wife, Susan.

Thank you for your time and your help. I await your response.

Sincerely,


Anna Mae Graham

SLADE GORTON
WASHINGTON

COMMITTEES:
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION
BANKING, HOUSING, AND
URBAN AFFAIRS
BUDGET
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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

2024 224-262

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770 U.S. COURT HOUSE
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SPOKANE, WA 99201
(509) 456-6816

FIRST FEDERAL PLAZA, SUITE 445
1220 MAIN STREET
VANCOUVER, WA 98660
(206) 696-7838

October 14, 1986

Ms. Susan Graham
c/o Mr. R. H. Graham
East 1527 Rockwood Boulevard
Spokane, Washington 99203

Dear Susan:

I have sent copies of the attached letters to President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev. Senator Evans joined me on these letters. I am hopeful that the negotiations about to begin will prove helpful in resolving your situation.

If I can be of further assistance, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



SLADE GORTON
United States Senator

SG:rds

Enclosures

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

October 8, 1986

General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev
Embassy of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
1125 16th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Secretary Gorbachev:

We are writing on the eve of your meetings with President Reagan to draw to your attention a compelling situation involving a Soviet citizen who is married to one of our constituents, an American woman from Spokane, Washington. We ask you to discuss this couple's situation with President Reagan and to make every effort to resolve their difficulties as quickly as possible.

Susan Graham, the American citizen, has been married for seven years to Matvey Finkel, a citizen of the Soviet Union. The couple met, fell in love, and were married in your country. However, they were not allowed to live together until 1983, four years after their marriage. Susan gave up teaching at an American university to work as a nanny in Moscow in order to be with her husband. Matvey has been denied permission to emigrate to the United States ten times. Most recently, his internal passport was confiscated by the police.

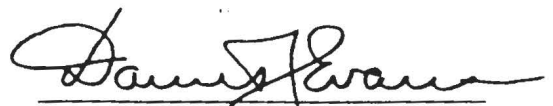
Susan is now expecting their first child in December, and will be returning to the United States for the birth. It is their heartfelt wish that Matvey be allowed to join his wife for this, the most important event in their lives. We believe that this couple has been made to suffer unduly, and we ask you to respond to their plea to be allowed to live together in the country of their choice. This couple desperately needs the kind of help which can only come from cooperation between you and President Reagan.

It is our hope that arrangements can be made within the context of your meetings with President Reagan which will permanently reunite this family in the United States, and we are grateful for any assistance which you can provide to make this happen.

Sincerely,



SLADE GORTON
United States Senator



DANIEL J. EVANS
United States Senator

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

October 8, 1986

The Honorable Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing on the eve of your meetings with Secretary Gorbachev to draw to your attention a compelling situation involving one of our constituents who is married to a Soviet citizen. We ask you to discuss this matter with Secretary Gorbachev, and to work with him to find a humane and speedy solution.

Susan Graham, a resident of Spokane, Washington, has been married to Matvey Finkel, a Soviet citizen, for seven years. Susan and Matvey have endured years of separation and frustration in their attempt to live together in the United States. After their marriage in 1979, they were denied the right to live as husband and wife until 1983, when the Soviets allowed Susan to stay in Moscow. Matvey has been denied the right to emigrate to this country more than ten times. The Soviet authorities have never offered a reasonable justification for refusing his application. Matvey and Susan are not permitted a home of their own, cannot pursue their careers, and cannot live in the country of their choice. Most recently, Matvey was detained by the KGB, and his internal passport was confiscated.

Susan is now expecting their first child in December, and will be returning to the United States for the birth. It is their heartfelt desire that Matvey be allowed to join his wife as soon as possible so that they might be together for this most important event in their lives. We ask you to press upon Secretary Gorbachev the urgency of this situation and the need for him to act promptly to grant Matvey permission to leave the Soviet Union. This couple desperately needs the kind of help which can only come from cooperation between you and Secretary Gorbachev.

It is our hope that arrangements can be made within the context of your meetings with Secretary Gorbachev which will permanently reunite this family in the United States, and we are grateful for any assistance which you can provide to make this happen.

Sincerely,



SLADE GORTON
United States Senator



DANIEL J. EVANS
United States Senator

Robert H. Graham

E. 1527 Rockwood Blvd., Spokane, WA 99203
(509)535-8348 or (509)292-2880

October 6, 1986

Mrs. Nancy Reagan
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Reagan:

I am writing this letter to appeal to you on behalf of my daughter, Susan, who has been married for almost 7 years to a Soviet citizen, Matvey Finkel. Matvey has applied approximately 15 times to emigrate to the United States to live here with Susan, and each time he has been denied permission by the Soviet government. I have enclosed a brief summary of their situation to date.

In December, Susan and Matvey are expecting their first child. Susan has been living in the Soviet Union for three years, but at the end of this month will return to Spokane to have her baby.

This couple and other couples in similar circumstances have tried many ways of resolving their dilemma. Last November when President Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev met, 8 cases such as theirs were resolved. I pray that perhaps you and Mrs. Gorbachev would discuss the Divided Spouses issue with your husbands, that it might be resolved once and for all. If we are to continue to have cultural exchanges between our two countries, we will continue to have Soviet-American marriages.

I want my daughter and son-in-law to be together for the birth of their baby. I want my grandchild to know his father from the beginning of his life, and not as a 'voice on the telephone or a picture on the mantle'. That doesn't seem like a lot to ask. Please help me fulfill this wish.

Sincerely,



Anna Mae Graham

327-4484

Matvey S. Finkel
ul. Snezhnaya 6-2
Moscow, USSR
tel: 180 7550

Susan R. Graham
E. 1527 Rockwood Blvd.
Spokane, WA 99203
tel: 509 535 8348


Married on 11 December 1979 in Moscow.

We met in 1977 when Susan was studying in Leningrad on an official exchange program. Two years later we were married in Moscow. Matvey first applied to go to the United States on 22 December 1979. Six months later he was informed that his application had been denied. Over the past six years he has been refused permission more than ten times. He has never officially been given a reason, but Susan was told in 1982 his denials were based on one year of compulsory military duty which he served 1972-73, fourteen years ago. This, of course, directly contradicts what Mr. Gorbachev said in his interview with French journalists; he said that cases refused on the basis of state security are resolved in 5-10 years. Matvey was most recently denied permission to emigrate on 16 January 1986.

The first four years of our marriage we lived apart because Soviet authorities persistently denied Susan permission to go to Moscow so that we might live together as a family. Because of the extreme hardship of living apart we persisted in our efforts to be together and in 1983, after the intervention of Congressman Foley and the late Senator Jackson, Susan was allowed to go to Moscow to work as a nanny for an American correspondent. Being together has somewhat eased the anguish of our situation, and yet it is still very difficult because we are not permitted a home of our own, we cannot start a family, we cannot pursue our careers, we cannot live in the country of our own choice.

We ask that you not forget about us and the other divided spouses who share our plight. Please do everything in your power to bring the resolution of these cases.

Sincerely,


Susan R. Graham Matvey S. Finkel

Update: Susan is now pregnant; our child is due in December 1986. Susan will return to the United States in the fall to await our child's birth.

7 July 1986

we believe President Reagan should see Anna May Graham concerning her Susan Graham. Mrs Graham would like to ask President Reagan's help in getting permission for her husband, Matvey Finkel to leave Russia.

Katherine J. Holian Lae Adolphson

Anna B. Kipper

Melora J. Zinn

Kathi Moran

Brenda J. ...

Linda ...

Jeanne ...

Grace ...

Sail ...

Gandra ...

Devaly ...

Grant ...

...

Claudia ...

Bayle ...

Lisette ...

Marie ...

Charles ...

Linda ...

Kathleen ...

NAME

Petition for Anna Mae to have a meeting with President Reagan.

L. J. Tus

(J. J. Talmeter)

J. Worch

W. W. Worch

Shirley Schulte

Nancy Roland GOP

Cindy Schukay GOP

Arthur Doman

Tracy Hughes

Jan Bergman

Jane M. Bergman

Barbara L. Davis

Dorothy Guberman GOP

Kim Breckley

Julie A. Keras GOP

Linda George

Leotta Johnson

Thelma Johnson

Gary O'Leary

Shirley Crummett

Helen M. Dittler

Faye Martin

Bela Mendry

Gene A. Mendry

Louise Henderson

Louise E. Banker

Budley Martin

Robert E. Martin

Dennis A. Moll

NAME

Petition for Anna Mae to have a meeting with President Reagan.

John Shuward	E 1015 Boone, Spokane WA 99204
Sandra R. Gobet	E 3403 Jackson Spok 99207
Justine Gray	71225 - 40000 Spok 99207
Frank D. Hayward	1618 E. Dalton 99207
Jeanne G. Galt	E3403 Jackson 99207
Lowell Howard	1912 W GRACE Spokane WA 99204
Alberta Kierstead	W. 2911 Ft. Wright Dr. Spokane, Wa.
Sister Virginia	" " " "
Sister Friles & Brennan	W 2911 Ft Wright Dr. Spokane, Wa
Sister Margaret McNamee	W. 2911 Ft. Wright Dr. Spokane, Wa.
Sister Jean Hanson	W 2911 Ft Wright Dr Spokane, Wa
Margaret M. Hanson	W 2911 Ft Wright Dr Spokane, Wa
Delores Fisher	1015 E Boone Ave Spokane Wa 99202
Leatha F Ward	Four Rivers Drive W. Spok 99207
Margaret L. Sagner	W 2911 Ft Wright Dr.
Mary Anne Delmonico	W. 2911 Ft Wright Dr Spokane 99207
Janita	W 2911 Ft Wright Dr Spokane 99207
Sister Thomas Mary Smith	W 2911 Fort Wright Dr Spokane 99207
Mary June Crainbald	" " " "
Margel Pitchard	W 2911 Fort Wright Drive
Eleanor Milnor	W 2911 Fort Wright Drive
Kathleen M. Hanson	W-2911 Fort Wright Dr
Margaret M. Valtz	W. 2911 Fort Wright Dr.
Darlene Emerson	E 6517 7th
Michael Stevenson	E 911 N. Main Ave Spokane Wash
Marlene M. Binsfield	711213 Acta Ct. Spokane.
Sarah S. Donnelly	W 2911 Ft. Wright Dr.
Sandra Ann Walters	" " "
Cecilia E. Leary	W. 2911 Ft. Wright Dr Spokane, Wa.
Louise H. Buck	" " " " "
Dora Fisher	W 2911 Ft Wright Dr Spokane 99207
Rosemary Miller	W 2911 - Ft Wright Dr Spokane, Wa
Rosemary Albi	W 2911 Ft. Wright Dr Spokane, Wa
Frances O'Reary	W 2911 Ft Wright Dr Spokane, Wa
Margaret Norcia	W 2911 Ft Wright Drive
Ann	E 1015 Boone
Rose	1015 E Boone Spokane
Kathleen Keefield	E 1015 Boone Spokane 99204

NAME

Editha Severance	Ford Knight 99204
Tom Kintoch	281 W. 125th Street, WA 99005
Al Malone	
George S. Loughman	N 1112 Columbus Sp 99202
Don Pile	N 26110 Yale Rd Sp 99003
Bill Peters	71 26710 Yale Rd. Clatskanie 97015
Ed Peterson	2313 E. 15th Ave.
Nancy Collins	2423 E. 7th
Mama Jane Anderson	7376 N. Hanoverport Coeur d'Alene Idaho 83814
William Gray	10 5133 Broadway Spokane, WA 99201
Arthur L. Johnson	42132 1500way Spokane WA 99201
Donald E. Jones	2218 Martin L King Way Berkeley CA 94704
Theresa Jones	6111 Harrison Ave
Margaret Jackson	E 1015 Boone
Margaret Malley	E 1015 Boone
Theresa	E 1015 Boone 99202
Theresa Matrasov	21521 Princeton Place 99205
Theresa Matrasov	E 1015 Boone Spokane 99202
Margaret McEpp	1713 W. 2nd Street 99205
Theresa Matrasov	E 1015 Boone Spokane 99202
Sarah Crowder	E 1015 Boone Ave Spokane 99202
Frances Weisberg	E 1015 Boone Ave Spokane
Frances Weisberg	E 1015 Boone - Spokane - 99202
Lurilla Foster	E 1015 Boone Spokane 99202
Beatrice Storms	E 1015 Boone Spokane 99202
Margaret Storms	E 1015 Boone Spokane 99202
Sophia Rudowicz	E 1015 Boone Spokane 99202
Editha Pettis B. Gray	E 1015 Boone "
Agnes Kiley	E 1015 Boone "
Helena Masterson	1015 E Boone Spokane 99202
Jane Sandgrass	E 1015 Boone Spokane
Mary Kay Linker	1015 E Boone Spokane 99202
Elizabeth Gray Head	E 15 NUTPA Spokane, WA
Clara M. Budig	E 1015 Boone Spokane, WA 99202
Margaret Mary Lass	PO Box 107 "Homestead" IL 83522

NAME Please let Anna Mae Grammer
see President Reagan about her daughter
Susan Graham's husband Matvey Finkel

Chick Brenny

Fatima A. Lee

Lucille Chambers

Janet Collins

Harold Stone

Walter D. ...

Burling Arnold

William ...

Gene Spidle

James M. ...

Marjette ...

Donette ...

John ...

Marcell ...

Melody Inzer

Pauline ...

Kim ...

Pam Moffett

Betty Rae Joseph

Jim Phillips

Deborah ...

Robert H. Graham

*Osborne
or Kuhn*

E. 1527 Rockwood Blvd., Spokane, WA 99203

(509)535-8348 or (509)292-2680

October 6, 1986

Mrs. Nancy Reagan
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Reagan:

I am writing this letter to appeal to you on behalf of my daughter, Susan, who has been married for almost 7 years to a Soviet citizen, Matvey Finkel. Matvey has applied approximately 15 times to emigrate to the United States to live here with Susan, and each time he has been denied permission by the Soviet government. I have enclosed a brief summary of their situation to date.

In December, Susan and Matvey are expecting their first child. Susan has been living in the Soviet Union for three years, but at the end of this month will return to Spokane to have her baby.

This couple and other couples in similar circumstances have tried many ways of resolving their dilemma. Last November when President Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev met, 8 cases such as theirs were resolved. I pray that perhaps you and Mrs. Gorbachev would discuss the Divided Spouses issue with your husbands, that it might be resolved once and for all. If we are to continue to have cultural exchanges between our two countries, we will continue to have Soviet-American marriages.

I want my daughter and son-in-law to be together for the birth of their baby. I want my grandchild to know his father from the beginning of his life, and not as a 'voice on the telephone or a picture on the mantle'. That doesn't seem like a lot to ask. Please help me fulfill this wish.

Sincerely,

Anna Mae Graham

Anna Mae Graham

SLADE GORTON
WASHINGTON

COMMITTEES:
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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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VANCOUVER, WA 98660
(206) 696-7838

October 14, 1986

Ms. Susan Graham
c/o Mr. R. H. Graham
East 1527 Rockwood Boulevard
Spokane, Washington 99203

Dear Susan:

I have sent copies of the attached letters to President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev. Senator Evans joined me on these letters. I am hopeful that the negotiations about to begin will prove helpful in resolving your situation.

If I can be of further assistance, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



SLADE GORTON
United States Senator

SG:rds

Enclosures

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

October 8, 1986

General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev
Embassy of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
1125 16th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Secretary Gorbachev:

We are writing on the eve of your meetings with President Reagan to draw to your attention a compelling situation involving a Soviet citizen who is married to one of our constituents, an American woman from Spokane, Washington. We ask you to discuss this couple's situation with President Reagan and to make every effort to resolve their difficulties as quickly as possible.

Susan Graham, the American citizen, has been married for seven years to Matvey Finkel, a citizen of the Soviet Union. The couple met, fell in love, and were married in your country. However, they were not allowed to live together until 1983, four years after their marriage. Susan gave up teaching at an American university to work as a nanny in Moscow in order to be with her husband. Matvey has been denied permission to emigrate to the United States ten times. Most recently, his internal passport was confiscated by the police.


Susan is now expecting their first child in December, and will be returning to the United States for the birth. It is their heartfelt wish that Matvey be allowed to join his wife for this, the most important event in their lives. We believe that this couple has been made to suffer unduly, and we ask you to respond to their plea to be allowed to live together in the country of their choice. This couple desperately needs the kind of help which can only come from cooperation between you and President Reagan.

It is our hope that arrangements can be made within the context of your meetings with President Reagan which will permanently reunite this family in the United States, and we are grateful for any assistance which you can provide to make this happen.

Sincerely,



SLADE GORTON
United States Senator



DANIEL J. EVANS
United States Senator

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

October 8, 1986

The Honorable Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing on the eve of your meetings with Secretary Gorbachev to draw to your attention a compelling situation involving one of our constituents who is married to a Soviet citizen. We ask you to discuss this matter with Secretary Gorbachev, and to work with him to find a humane and speedy solution.

Susan Graham, a resident of Spokane, Washington, has been married to Matvey Finkel, a Soviet citizen, for seven years. Susan and Matvey have endured years of separation and frustration in their attempt to live together in the United States. After their marriage in 1979, they were denied the right to live as husband and wife until 1983, when the Soviets allowed Susan to stay in Moscow. Matvey has been denied the right to emigrate to this country more than ten times. The Soviet authorities have never offered a reasonable justification for refusing his application. Matvey and Susan are not permitted a home of their own, cannot pursue their careers, and cannot live in the country of their choice. Most recently, Matvey was detained by the KGB, and his internal passport was confiscated.

Susan is now expecting their first child in December, and will be returning to the United States for the birth. It is their heartfelt desire that Matvey be allowed to join his wife as soon as possible so that they might be together for this most important event in their lives. We ask you to press upon Secretary Gorbachev the urgency of this situation and the need for him to act promptly to grant Matvey permission to leave the Soviet Union. This couple desperately needs the kind of help which can only come from cooperation between you and Secretary Gorbachev.

It is our hope that arrangements can be made within the context of your meetings with Secretary Gorbachev which will permanently reunite this family in the United States, and we are grateful for any assistance which you can provide to make this happen.

Sincerely,



SLADE GORTON
United States Senator



DANIEL J. EVANS
United States Senator

Graham, Soviet husband detained briefly in Moscow

Staff and wire reports

A pregnant Spokane woman and her Soviet husband were detained for about 2½ hours Tuesday in Moscow after collecting 20 signatures on a petition asking that he be allowed to leave the Soviet Union.

Meanwhile, the woman's mother said she is going to do "everything I can" to make a personal appeal to President Reagan for help in her daughter's case when Reagan is in Spokane this week.

"All I want to do is have five minutes with the president," Anna Mae Graham said Tuesday. "If my kid can face the KGB, I can certainly do whatever I can to see the president on her behalf."

Reagan will be in Spokane on Thursday night and Friday campaigning for U.S. Sen. Slade Gorton.

Susan Graham, 31, said she and her husband, Matvey Finkel, went to a Moscow hotel frequented by Western tourists to try to get signatures on a petition

to Kremlin leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

Graham, seven months pregnant, and her husband collected signatures outside the hotel for several minutes before being stopped by hotel security agents, she said.

The security men took the couple inside the hotel to a basement police room where they were held, Graham told the Associated Press by telephone.

While they were being held, she said, Finkel was told he could be sent away from Moscow if he continued his protests.

Finkel, 37, and Graham were married in December 1979 and applied for permission for Finkel to emigrate. Time after time he has been refused.

Graham has devoted the past seven years to winning her husband's freedom. For three years she has lived with him in Moscow.

Earlier this week, Finkel was denied a three-month

visa to go abroad for the birth of their baby.

The couple wants the child to be born outside the Soviet Union. Graham has said she will leave alone for the birth if necessary, and time is running out. Apparently, airlines have told her they will not allow her to travel in her condition after the first week in November.

"Things are getting pretty desperate for her," Anna Mae Graham said Tuesday. "I talked with her this morning by phone. She didn't want to give me any details by phone of what happened, but she said they were both at home now."

"She said 'Don't worry, Mom. I'm all right.' But of course it's difficult not to worry."

Susan and a group of several other Americans married to Soviet citizens have tried several times to gain an audience with Reagan to discuss their plights, but such a meeting has not been granted. They believe

issues such as this often are resolved when American leaders make direct appeals to Soviet leaders at the highest levels, bypassing the bureaucracies.

Anna Mae Graham said that when she told her daughter by phone that Reagan would be in Spokane, Susan urged her to try to see him.

"I've called Gorton's office and (Congressman) Tom Foley's office to try to get their help in arranging something," Anna Mae Graham said.

Susan Graham has enlisted some other powerful help in her cause. American industrialist Armand Hammer made headlines a few weeks ago when he successfully interceded with the Soviets to release Soviet "refusenik" David Goldfarb and his wife.

On a CBS Morning News interview concerning the Goldfarb release, Hammer said he would do his best to win Finkel's release so he could be with Susan for the birth of their baby.

WEDNESDAY, OCT 29, 1986

THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

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SPOKANE-REGIONAL

OBITUARIES/A9

Robert H. Graham

E. 1527 Rockwood Blvd., Spokane, WA 99203
(509)536-8348 or (509)292-2880

Graham

October 29, 1985

Senator Daniel J. Evans
U. S. Senate
Washington, D.C., 20510

Dear Senator Evans:

I am writing to you on behalf of our daughter, Susan Graham, who is married to Soviet citizen, Matvey Finkel. Susan and Matvey will celebrate their 7th wedding anniversary on December 11th. Since before their marriage Matvey has applied for permission to emigrate from the Soviet Union in order to live here in the United States with Susan. He has been denied permission to date.

Currently there is a "Dear Colleague" letter being circulated in the Senate on behalf of 25 couples who are asking permission for the Russian spouse to emigrate and are currently being denied that permission. The letter is being sponsored by Sen. Paul Simon of Illinois. His staffperson, Jill Goldenberg, is handling the circulation of this letter.

In 1981 a similar letter was sponsored by Sen. Henry Jackson and Sen. Slade Gorton on behalf of our daughter. Congressman Thomas Foley has also been very active in assisting us in any way he can.

I am enclosing copies of some of the correspondence we have received concerning this "Dear Colleague" letter. We would appreciate it very much if you would sign this letter as our senator. Thank you in advance for your help.

Sincerely,

Anna Mae Graham
Mrs. Robert H. (Anna Mae) Graham

11 pages

*11/1/85
Evans says "yes"
C. Dawson + Jan Spina
will prepare + execute
Telephoned Mrs. G.
She is extremely happy.*

2851-987 - 008
Jo. Herde

Spokanite to Soviets: Free father

SR 9/13/84

Knight Ridder

WASHINGTON — The pregnant young Spokane woman stood Friday in front of the microphones, blinked back tears and talked of her hopes that her Soviet husband would be allowed to join her before their first child is born in December.

"I want my child to know his father is more than just a photograph or a voice on the telephone," said Susan Graham, her voice breaking. "I hope the Soviets will allow Matvey to come out and join me before our baby is born."

Graham is among a group of people who are perhaps the most innocent, tragic victims of the new Cold War — two dozen Americans whose Soviet spouses are locked away behind the borders of the USSR by the restrictive emigration policies of the Soviet government.

A group of these "divided spouses" was in Washington to confer with State Department officials and to attempt to meet with Soviet diplomats.

Members of the group said they were assured by Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead that the issue of divided spouses would be raised by Secretary of State George Shultz when he meets his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze, later this year.

From there, the group went to Capitol Hill for a press conference that began with the showing of a videotape of some of their Soviet family members at a picnic in Moscow this summer.

As the camera panned the crowd and, paused for a moment on a small boy, 88-year-old Anatoly Michelson of Sarasota, Fla., half rose in his chair.

"That's my grandson," he said, his eyes clouding with emotion.

Michelson stared at the screen, then sank back into his chair. As the press conference was breaking up, the group got word that their request for a meeting with Soviet officials had been granted — sort of. The Soviets had agreed to a meeting — but on Monday, when most of the group will have left Washington, and with a consular official rather than the ambassador.

Undeterred, the group piled into taxis and headed to the Soviet Embassy, where first Andrea Wine of Cranbury, N.J., and then Braun approached the locked gate. Braun was allowed inside.

He emerged a few minutes later with mixed news. "We have been offered a meeting on Monday with a consular official. If we don't leave they will call the police on us."

The group quickly backed away from the embassy.

"Well, at least they recognize the need to meet with us," said Lavigne with one last look at the gray stone embassy. "That's a step forward."

Soviets warn Spokanite's husband Authorities take swift action to make sure he stays in Moscow

SR 9/15/84 Pg. 1

MOSCOW (AP) — A member of a group of Soviets trying to join their American spouses said Sunday the KGB secret police warned him the group must stop its public activities or exit visas for two members might be held up for months.

Matvey Finkel, married to Susan Graham of Spokane, said he was interrogated Friday and Saturday by KGB officers and told to cancel plans to travel to Riga, Latvia, to deliver a letter of protest to a U.S.-Soviet conference that opens there today.

"They said that if I continue to try to go to Riga, I will be imprisoned," Finkel said.

Authorities took his internal passport and driver's license to make sure he does not leave Moscow, he said.

Finkel said he was questioned Friday for five hours about his wife and her family. He said officials confiscated an open letter to Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev, President Reagan and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher that he planned to deliver to the U.S.-Soviet conference.

The letter appealed for help in the divided families' cause, Finkel said.

More than 200 American participants were expected at the conference. The Chautauqua Institute in upstate New York

is overseeing American participation at it.

Finkel said KGB officers questioned him at length Saturday about the activities of the divided families group, which writes letters, talks to Western reporters and stages demonstrations to back members' demands for emigration visas.

"They tried to find out who is the leader of our group and whose idea it was to go to Riga," Finkel said. "I said it was my idea and I bought the ticket."

The interrogators told Finkel "to tell everybody in the group that if we try to continue our activity, it will be bad for (Roman) Kuperman and (Tamara) Tre-

tyakova," two members who were promised exit visas last week.

"They will delay their visas for months," Finkel said. "They said that if I don't want to do something bad to them (Kuperman and Tretyakova), I have to stop my activities and tell other people to do so too."

Kuperman is married to Francis L. Pergerich of Chicago, Ill.

Tretyakova is the wife of Simon Levin, of Deerfield, Ill., who emigrated from the Soviet Union in 1978 and became a naturalized U.S. citizen. The couple have an 8-year-old son who lives in Moscow with his mother.

Wife convinced pressure needed to free spouse

By MICHAEL MURPHEY

Of the Chronicle

Even though uncertainty is the fundamental characteristic of the mind-wracking maze which Susan Graham's world has become in the past three years, there is one thing of which she can feel certain:

If her husband ever does gain his freedom from the Soviet Union, it will not be a result of the good will or magnanimity of the Soviet bureaucracy.

If Matvey Finkel is ever going to be granted permission by the Soviets to emigrate to America, she feels, it will be the result of some prodding, some request, some activity by her, by Matvey, by politicians, by the U.S. State Department, by the American public — by someone.

It won't happen of its own accord. Something must be done.

But what?

Looking to logic or trying to find a clue in the reasons behind the Soviet refusals is, according to an expert in Soviet human rights issues, an exercise in futility.

"If they wanted to resolve the case, they would resolve it," said Meg Donovan, a staff assistant to the Helsinki Commission. "They are just incredibly arbitrary and capricious."

So the inescapable need to do something becomes enmeshed in the gnawing realization that to do anything could be to do the wrong thing. And doing the wrong thing could diminish the hope that Susan Graham and Matvey Finkel can one day live together freely as man and wife.

In the meantime, Graham and Finkel are being swept along by events over which neither of them has any control. Finkel's friend, Sergei Petrov, was reportedly near death as the result of a hunger strike which he began on June 2. According to wire service accounts, Petrov ended his hunger strike today.

Like Finkel, Petrov is married to an American citizen and has been refused permission to leave the Soviet Union. Finkel originally had planned to join Petrov in the protest, but Graham dissuaded him.

Having bowed to hunger strikers before, the Soviets apparently took a hard line in the Petrov case. And while Finkel did not join in the starvation protest, he has not disassociated himself

married to foreigners was to begin.

Seven Soviet citizens, all married to Western spouses and all denied permission to leave the USSR, have been involved in the hunger strikes.

Of the group which began its protest in May, four were granted permission to leave, although only one — Andrei Frolov, husband of Lois Becker Frolov of Chicago — has actually made it out of the USSR.

On June 21, Yuri Balovlenkov, husband of Elena Kuzmenko, a Baltimore, Md., nurse, ended a 43-day fast after being told he could leave. But after he halted his strike, the Soviets apparently changed their minds. He resumed his fast on July 5, and reportedly continued fasting today.

On June 2, Petrov, who is married to Virginia Johnson of Flat Rock, N.C., began his own hunger strike. He ended his fast on the 51st day today, telling wire service reporters by phone

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from his Moscow apartment that he quit voluntarily to avoid putting his wife, relatives and friends through further pain.

Finkel had planned to join Petrov in that hunger strike, but State Department officials were counseling against that strategy. Their reasoning was that the Soviets had already capitulated to hunger strikers and would not want to give the impression that they would continue to give in.

Graham had to weigh this reasoning against the knowledge that the State Department has been counseling against hunger strikes all along.

And both Graham and Finkel were well aware of the case of Lois and Andrei Frolov.

The State Department had advised Lois Becker Frolov to talk her husband out of his hunger strike. They told her the publicity Mrs. Frolov attracted when she went on a fast in support of her husband would only hurt his cause. And they suggested that the filing of a lawsuit against the Soviets in U.S. District Court on Frolov's behalf could be disastrous.

Lois and Andrei Frolov, however, rejected all the advice, and the Soviets released him.

But in early June, reluctantly, Graham called her husband and dissuaded him from joining Petrov.

"When we first made the decision we definitely were not going to be involved in the hunger strike," Graham said, "for a couple of weeks it really bothered me. I think circumstances have shown lately that we probably made the right decision."

Early this month, the Soviets held a press conference with Western newsmen to discuss the cases of Balovlenkov and Petrov. A press conference to respond officially to the protests of

Soviet citizens was unprecedented.

In the press conference, a Soviet emigration official issued a long justification of the denial of Balovlenkov and Petrov's requests to leave. He said the attention Western diplomats and correspondents gave the two men amounted to "direct interference in internal Soviet affairs."

He also accused the American Embassy of inciting Russians married to Americans to protest. This was done, he said, at a lunch for the Soviet spouses given last December.

The official said Balovlenkov and Petrov would be allowed to reapply for exit visas in six months, and then said their wives could join their husbands in Moscow if they chose to do so.

Both wives went to Moscow this week, but rejected the offer to stay with their husbands.

"I have a big family in the United States," Petrov's wife dryly told reporters in Moscow. "The point of this is family reunification. I don't think I could convince them to move here."

Petrov, 29, had reportedly withered to skin and bone and is too weak to leave his bed before ending his fast.

Elena Balovlenkov has asked Soviet officials to hospitalize her husband and force feed him in order to save his life. But Balovlenkov, 33, said he will starve himself to death if not allowed to leave the Soviet Union.

Against this backdrop of events, Graham will go to Washington, D.C., next week.

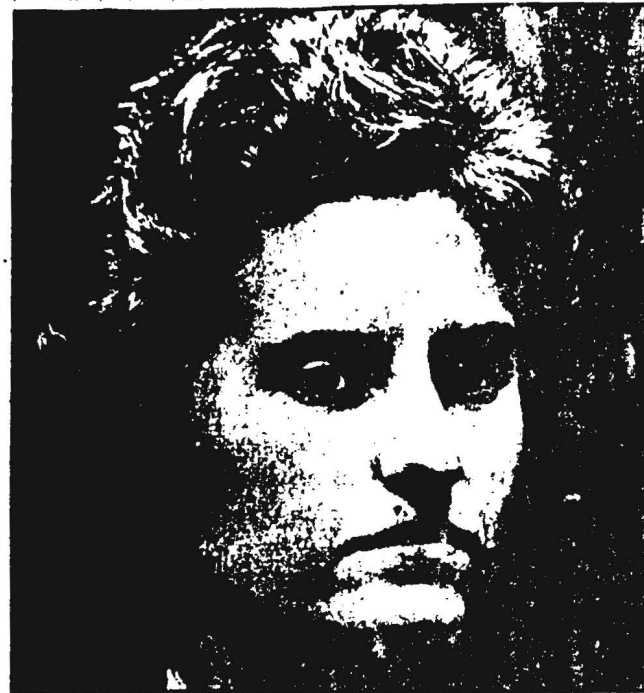
She feels better now about the efforts of U.S. Sen. Henry Jackson and U.S. Rep. Tom Foley on her behalf. At first, she was uncertain of the vigor with which they were supporting her cause, but now, she says, there are indications that both men have made the issue a priority. In Jackson's office in particular, staff members speak of their admiration for Graham's determination and courage.

Graham hopes that the Soviet's willingness to allow Elena Balovlenkov and Virginia Petrov to go to Moscow means she, too, will be able to go and stay with her husband while his case is being resolved. In the past, the Soviets have repeatedly denied her a visitors visa.

And she will continue to counsel her husband to be cautious.

"My great concern has been and always will be my husband's safety," she said. "I'm always concerned that what I do or say might have a negative effect on him personally or his case in general. That's one of the reasons I've decided to proceed rather conservatively."

Before going, she will try to urge the people of Spokane to write letters to Anatoly Dobrynin, Soviet Ambassador to the United States, and ask that Finkel be freed. And she hopes that her friends here fully understand the depth of the dangerous human drama which is being played



Susan Graham: living with mind-wracking uncertainty.

Graham and Finkel are being swept along by events over which neither of them has any control.

When they married, they knew their lives would not be easy.

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from his friend. He has been with Petrov during much of the ordeal, so he may be associated with the protest in the mind of Soviet officialdom.

But, "Serg's been a good friend," Graham explained, "and you don't turn you back on a good friend just because suddenly he is viewed unfavorably by the government. This is the sort of thing you do not on a political level, but on a personal level."

"It's hard to know what to do," she added. "Every case seems to be different. Some things work for certain people, and then they don't work for you. But I think that's part of the Soviet's plan, so that no one knows what's going to work and what doesn't."

Susan Graham, 26, and Matvey Finkel, 33, were married three years ago in Moscow. Before his marriage and his subsequent request to emigrate to the United States, he was an engineer. Now he does mechanical repair work.

They met in 1977 while Graham was a student in the Soviet Union, studying the Russian Language. When she returned to Moscow with a group of Whitworth College students in 1978, they decided to marry. It was 16 months before official Soviet permission was given for the marriage and before she could obtain the necessary visa to get back to the Soviet Union.

They were married in 1979. In the almost three years that have passed, they have spent little more than three months together.

When they married, they knew their lives would not be easy. Marriage between Russian citizens and foreigners, particularly Americans, is discouraged by the Soviets. They recognized it would take time and persistence to win permission for Finkel to leave the USSR.

"We looked into it," Graham explained. "Statistically, we felt like we were pretty well off. Only 5 percent of the people in marriages like this have had trouble emigrating."

Six times, though, Finkel has been denied permission to leave. They have also sought permission to live together in the Soviet Union, but Graham's requests for a visitor's visa have all been denied.

She has been able to go to Moscow only on tourist visas which limit her stay to two weeks in any one Russian city. When she overstayed her most recent tourist visa while waiting for an extension, she was assisted out of the country by the KGB.

In May, a group of four men picked her up near her husband's Moscow apartment, hustled her to the airport and hid her from a representative from the U.S. Embassy until they could get her onto an airplane bound for the United States.

Staff members of the Helsinki Review Committee say it was probably not coincidental that Graham was forced to leave the Soviet Union on May 8, two days before a well-publicized hunger strike by a group of six Soviet citizens who are

strike," Graham said, "for a couple of days. It really bothered me. I think circumstances have shown lately that we probably made the right decision."

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After a year of struggling, 11 days together

By MICHAEL MURPHEY
Staff writer

Eleven days might not seem like much. Not much of a payoff for a year of worrying whether a false step might make the difference between freedom and a lifetime of separation. Not much of a reward for 12 months of navigating red tape, jumping through bureaucratic hoops, knocking on embassy doors, jousting with State Department officials, hiking the halls of Congress and convincing people that you aren't going to just go away.

A lifetime would be better than just 11 days.

But for now, Susan Graham will take what she can get.

"There was a time when I thought 11 days wouldn't even have been worth the expense of the trip to Moscow," Graham said Monday. "But now, it was, 'Oh boy, 11 whole days!'"

Graham, 27, of Spokane has been married to Matvey Finkel, 34, of Moscow, U.S.S.R., for three and a half years.

Her 11 days in the Soviet Union last month brought their time together during those three and a half years to not quite three and a half months.

And since she was expelled from the Soviet Union on May 8, 1982, Graham often has wondered whether the Soviets might never let her back into Russia.

FOR 12 MONTHS Graham was



SUSAN GRAHAM AND MATVEY FINKEL

in a bad mood.

More frustrating, Graham said, "is the likelihood that it's not a question of Reagan's or Andropov's bad mood, but the bad mood Ivan Ivanovich may be in — some totally faceless bureaucrat who might not pass our request along to the next bureaucrat because he had a fight with his wife the night before."

Graham and Finkel married in Moscow in December 1979.

THEY MET IN 1977 while she was in Leningrad as a Russian language student. Both knew the Soviets discourage the marriage of Soviet citizens to foreigners. And they knew the fact he is Jewish might complicate matters.

But they didn't anticipate the extent of the ordeal.

Six times Finkel has been denied

D.C., last summer. Although her master's degree in linguistics would have qualified her as an interpreter, she took a part-time evening job as a waitress so her days would be free to make the rounds of governmental offices.

IN MOSCOW, Finkel, an engineer, has been unemployed for a year.

Although Graham believes Finkel is watched closely, she says he has not suffered overt harassment.

"Other spouses have said their husbands are being harassed and threatened," Graham said Monday. "But as far as I know, Matvey has not really been subjected to that."

"On the other hand, maybe that's

due to the fact that there has been some publicity about us, and the Russians understand that if anything happens to my husband, I'll scream bloody murder."

The most unsettling event of the year occurred in January when the U.S. Embassy invited Finkel to a diplomatic reception to meet U.S. Rep. Don Bonker, D-Wash., who was visiting Moscow.

ALSO INVITED, however, was Igor Andropov, son of Yuri Andropov.

Finkel did not show up. He phoned the embassy the next day to explain that two officers from the Moscow criminal police had come to his apartment and told him he

could not leave that evening.

They cited a new city statute for strengthening preservation of public order.

When he refused to promise he would stay in, he said, the men stood outside his apartment building for much of the evening.

Graham suspects the Soviets wanted to make sure there was no embarrassing confrontation between the son of their leader and a Russian Jew who had been identified with the hunger-strike movement.

The year Graham spent in Washington, D.C., was a year devoted to quietly making her plight known and making sure whenever Ameri-

cans and Soviets meet, Matvey Finkel's name comes up.

SHE IS BACK in Spokane now, and plans to remain at least until the fall.

"I'm sort of tired of the gypsy life," she said. "I just don't know what else there is to do in Washington. After seeing Matvey, everything else is sort of anti-climactic anyway, so I sort of feel like it's mission accomplished for a while."

On June 2, Finkel again officially applied to emigrate, and Graham is optimistic something may happen this summer. If his military service is a legitimate issue, she reasons, 10 years seems a logical release point.

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Trio charged in robbery

Three young men have been arrested in connection with a robbery in Riverfront Park late Tuesday night.

Three teenagers were forced to hand over a small amount of cash at knifepoint at about 10:45 p.m.

The arrests were made shortly after midnight several blocks from the park.

Michael Cooch, 20, W79 Second, is being held in the Spokane County Jail on \$10,500 bond. He was charged with first-degree robbery and intimidation with a weapon.

Shaun Schuenger, 20, W708 Augusta, was charged with first-degree robbery and released on his own recognizance.

A 17-year-old was also charged with first-degree robbery. He was turned over to juvenile authorities and police did not indicate whether he was released.

and improve its water quality.

Soltero, an expert on Eastern Washington lakes who has spent eight years studying Medical Lake, said he proposes to install an aerating device in the deepest part of lake, about 60 feet.

He said he wants to study the effects of aeration in hopes it will provide a long-term program to restore the lake.

Soltero told the council Tuesday night that a device would suck water from the oxygen-poor depths of the lake and mix it with water higher in oxygen content.

Tom Bumgarner, city administrator, said efforts to put the chemical alum into the lake tended to break down after several years.

He said 75 percent of the money needed will be sought from state lake restoration funds and 25 percent from the federal Bureau of Reclamation.

Since the alum treatment, the chemical makeup of the lake water has changed and the lake

couldn't survive in the lake before the 1978 restoration.

Woman robbed at deposit box

The manager of a Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant was robbed at gunpoint late Wednesday at the Washington Trust Bank at Shanna and Monroe.

The robber confronted the store manager with a sub-machine pistol at about 11:45 p.m., police said.

When Graham got back to Spokane, she was tired of going through channels. She called a news conference to focus attention on her problem.

Several of Finkel's friends, other Soviet citizens with foreign spouses, went on a highly publicized hunger strike to bring world pressure on the Soviets. Graham and Finkel agitated over whether he should participate.

At the urging of U.S. Sen. Henry Jackson, U.S. Rep. Tom Foley and the State Department, they decided to go back to bureaucratic channels and a low profile.

To prod the bureaucracy, Graham moved to Washington.

Soviet police foil meeting with Bonker

OLYMPIA (AP) — A Washington state congressman says he tried to meet with the Russian husband of a Spokane woman but failed when Soviet police threatened the man.

Rep. Don Bonker, D-Wash., said he was scheduled to meet with Matuey Finkel in the U.S. Embassy, but Finkel abruptly canceled the meeting with no explanation.

Bonker was chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Human Rights when he visited the Soviet Union in January.

Embassy officials told Bonker later they learned Finkel was visited by two Soviet security policemen who threatened him with a loss of freedom and rights if he "persisted in meeting Westerners."

Bonker said embassy officials believe the Soviet authorities didn't want Finkel to be at the embassy because new premier Yuri Andropov's son, Igor, was scheduled to attend a reception there.

Finkel is the husband of Susan Graham of Spokane. They were married in the Soviet Union while Graham was studying there in 1979, but Soviet officials refused to give Finkel a visa.

Graham, who now lives near Washington, D.C., had asked Bonker to help persuade the Russian government to allow Finkel to join her in the United States.

Bonker said the elder Andropov has increased the grip the government has on the Russian people.

But Bonker, who also visited other Communist countries, found more repression in Romania than in Russia.

Romania "is one of the most repressive countries in the world today," he said.

Bonker was told by Nicolae Ceausescu, president and general secretary of the Romanian Communist Party, "that the United States has no business meddling in Romania's internal affairs."

Hungary, on the other hand, had a great deal of freedom, Bonker said.

"There's even a market economy with a lot of signs of capitalism in all the shops we saw there," he said.

The Hungarians, however, "toe the Moscow line 100 percent in foreign policy," he said.

But they didn't anticipate the extent of the ordeal.

Six times Finkel has been denied permission to leave, and the Soviets' only explanation has been that ex-members of the Soviet military — Finkel served a mandatory two years in the army — cannot leave for a certain time period, although they have not specified what that period is.

In November, Finkel will have been separated from the army 10 years.

The most eventful year of their marriage began March 29, 1982, when Graham arrived in Moscow on a tourist visa which expired April 15. Once there, she applied for an extension that would allow her to remain for a year.

WHILE WAITING for the extension she over-stayed her visa. On May 8 she was picked up by four men in a black sedan, rushed to the Moscow airport, hidden in a small room from a U.S. embassy official who was looking for her, and hustled onto a plane to the United States.

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And since she was expelled from the Soviet Union on May 8, 1982, Graham often has wondered whether the Soviets might never let her back into Russia.

FOR 12 MONTHS Graham was repeatedly denied permission to return. In April, inexplicably, her request to spend a week in Leningrad was approved. Once there, her visa was extended a week and she was allowed to go to Moscow.

So on May 9, 1983, precisely a year after she was kicked out of the Soviet Union, Susan Graham was back with her husband.

It was a less eventful visit than the previous one.

"We didn't go to see anybody," she said. "We decided to make it totally apolitical and just enjoy each other's company while we could."

Although the 11 days were a respite from her crusade to win her husband's freedom to leave the Soviet Union, the unexplained reversal in the Soviets' refusal to grant Susan Graham a visa was unsettling — again raising the question of whether there is any method to the ploddings of the Soviet bureaucracy.

"We keep hoping," Graham said in February, "that there really are some rules to the game, that some magic date will pass or some requirement be fulfilled and he'll be free to go."

IT IS MORE frustrating to think that their fate is a matter of whim. Graham's hopes were raised, for example, when Yuri Andropov took over Soviet leadership in November. Traditionally, a change in leadership is a time for diplomatic initiatives and conciliatory gestures.

But Ronald Reagan and Andropov only greeted each other.

It was a helplessness feeling to think their life might hinge on fallout from a statement made by a press desk or secretary general who was

viat citizens to foreigners. And they knew the fact he is Jewish might complicate matters.

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Russian husband again denied exit permission

By MICHAEL MURPHEY
Of the Chronicle

6/5/82

A Spokane woman's Russian husband has been denied for the sixth time permission to leave the Soviet Union and come to the United States.

Susan Graham, 26, received the disappointing phone call from her husband, Matvey Finkel, early yesterday morning.

"He called and said he'd gotten another denial," Graham said. "He has to wait six months before he can apply again."

In an hour-long telephone conversation with a U.S. State Department official following her husband's call, Graham was told the Soviets might be resisting Finkel's emigration because they suspect their marriage is merely a "marriage of convenience" intended only to get Finkel out of the Soviet Union.

"I don't see how anyone can think that after 2 1/2 years," she said. "If this was just a marriage of convenience, we would've given it up long ago."

"I really resent that suggestion, particularly if there are American officials who believe that. It's one thing if that's the stance the Soviets want to take, because they can believe anything they want."

"But if officials of the American government believe that — well, I can't believe they would believe it after 2 1/2 years."

Yesterday's disappointing development was the latest in a long series of frustrations for Graham and Finkel that include her experience in May of being picked up by an official of the KGB in Moscow and hustled out of the country.

In the past month, the State Department, U.S. Sen. Henry Jackson and U.S. Rep. Tom Foley all have

advised Graham to be patient. They have warned her against making diplomatic waves, against taking strong public stances or attempting to have resolutions of support passed in Congress.

They advise her to rely on the quiet diplomatic process they say is her husband's best chance for release.

But she points out that for almost three years, that patient diplomatic process has failed consistently.

"One of the hardest things about all this," she confided today, "is that I not only have to fight the Soviet government on this issue, but I sometimes feel I have to fight my own government, too."

"The most frustrating thing to me is that some American officials give me the impression they feel the Soviets somehow have the right to do this. But there is absolutely no justification for it."

"Why it is not just condemned across the board by U.S. officials, I don't understand."

Susan Graham and Matvey Finkel were married in December 1979. They met while she was studying the Russian language at the University of Leningrad in 1977.

She had traveled to the Soviet Union previously, the first time when she was 15, drawn to the country because of her interest in Russian.

Graham and Finkel struck up an acquaintance during her 1977 spring vacation trip to Moscow. They met because Finkel has an uncle who lives in Spokane.

They saw each other again in 1978 when she was on a trip to Moscow with a group of Whitworth College students. They decided to marry, but she had to return to the United States and wait 16 months for the Soviet government to approve the marriage.

Marriage between Russians and foreign citizens is

discouraged by the Soviets, and Graham says she and her husband recognized it would take time for him to get permission to emigrate to the United States.

But their research showed that 95 percent of the Soviet citizens who have married foreign citizens have been allowed to emigrate, with most of the problems being experienced by those who have highly placed relatives or who have worked in sensitive jobs. Neither of those factors apply in Finkel's case.

During the past three years, they have also attempted to live together in Moscow, but those efforts, too, have been rejected by the Soviets. In their three years of marriage, they have been together only about three months accumulated in two and three-week intervals while she visited Russia on tourist visas.

Her most recent visit ended in May when she was picked up by four Soviet officials near her husband's Moscow apartment, hustled to the airport and put on a plane to the United States.

By the time she arrived back in Spokane, Graham decided she had been patient long enough. She asked Jackson, Foley and Sen. Slade Gorton to introduce a joint resolution in Congress expressing support for her husband and attempting to pressure the Soviets into releasing him.

Jackson, Foley and the State Department all advised her not to pursue that course but to maintain a low profile. Ironically, on the same day Finkel's most recent emigration application was denied, a Soviet citizen named Andrei Frolov was granted emigration status.

Frolov is a member of a group of Soviet spouses on a hunger strike. His wife, Lois Becker of Chicago, filed a lawsuit against the Soviets 10 days before his release,

and Sen. Robert Dole of Kansas had introduced a Congressional resolution expressing support for hunger strikers.

But yesterday, Jackson's office and the State Department still were telling Graham to be patient. A State Department official suggested the Soviets may be viewing her marriage as a marriage of convenience.

There have been cases in which American citizens often young women studying in the Soviet Union, marry Soviet men only for the purpose of gaining the Soviet citizen's emigration.

Sometimes the American citizen is an unwitting partner, feeling genuinely that the Soviet spouse is their partner. Other times, the marriage is arranged for a fee.

Graham says she recognizes that there may be some appearance of that in this case because her husband is Jewish, tried to get permission to emigrate Israel before they were married, and because of relatives in Spokane. And it occurs to her that some of the American officials she has dealt with also may have a question in their minds about the sincerity of her marriage.

But she thinks her 2 1/2 years of travel, frustration and sacrifice should be evidence enough of the genuineness of their love.

"The State Department suggested the Soviets thought it's not a marriage of convenience on my part, but it is on my husband's part," she said. "I feel very insulted by that."

"It makes him appear to be some sort of shady character, and it makes me appear stupid enough to fall for something like that."

Comment

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Susan Graham doing battle with two governments

Are Susan Graham's representatives in Congress working for her or against her? It's hard to tell.

Congressman Tom Foley and U.S. Sen. Henry M. Jackson have persuaded the Spokane woman not to push for a congressional resolution calling on the Soviet Union to let her husband, Matvey Finkel, emigrate. The two influential federal lawmakers have advised Graham to be patient. They can help her more effectively if she lets them do things their way, the diplomatic way, they have told her.

As an American citizen married to a Soviet citizen, Graham may understand better than any of us the value of a political structure in which government works for the people and takes its direction from the citizens rather than the other way around. But her frustrations with the Soviet system, which is keeping her and her Russian husband apart, are being compounded now when her own government is telling her to calm down, to be patient.

After three years of working through the normal channels, both here and in the Soviet Union, Graham must feel she has demonstrated an admirable amount of patience already. But she has nothing to show for it.

The normal channels have included six applications by Finkel for permission to leave his country and six rejections. The normal channels have included repeated contacts with Jackson's and Foley's offices.

The normal channels had not included — until

last month — public appeals through the news media for support. Only at that point, interestingly enough, did either of the federal lawmakers ever contact their constituent directly.

But the contact, a call from Jackson, produced nothing new beyond the senator's personal involvement. He encouraged her to be patient. She agreed.

Meanwhile, the Associated Press in Moscow has reported that Soviet authorities will grant visas to at least two of seven Soviet citizens who are fasting until their government lets them join spouses outside the Iron Curtain.

It isn't the first time the Soviet government has shown itself susceptible to the pressure of highly publicized human-rights protests. Dissident An-

drei Sakharov and his wife staged a 17-day hunger strike that resulted last December in an exit visa for Mrs. Sakharov's daughter-in-law whose husband was waiting in Massachusetts.

Yet Foley and Jackson, when they were asked to rally their congressional colleagues in a formal appeal on Graham's behalf, counseled caution so as not to rile the Russians. It might do more harm than good, they warned.

Understandably, that message captured Graham's attention. She personally experienced the Soviet government's style when its agents abruptly escorted her away from her Moscow apartment and out of the country one day last month.

Yet Foley and Jackson offered no alternative plan other than to wait — to wait for U.S.-Soviet talks to thaw, perhaps as a result of strategic arms reduction talks scheduled to begin June 29.

Graham and Finkel represent an allegorical kind of innocence. Their politics, if they have any, are buried deep under the surface. They are willing to live in Russia or in the United States, as long as it is together. Finkel gave up an engineering career and became a mechanic to improve his chances of obtaining an exit visa.

Now their simple plea to be united has been linked to the paramount international political issue of the day. Susan Graham had a right to expect more than that from the world's foremost representative government.