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# WITHDRAWAL SHEET

## Ronald Reagan Library

**Collection Name** MATLOCK, JACK: FILES

**Withdrawer**

JET 5/3/2005

**File Folder** DIVIDED SPOUSES (5/7)

**FOIA**

F06-114/7

**Box Number** 24

YARHI-MILO

2412

ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
9546	MEMO	U.S. GOVERNMENT EXIST VISA REPRESENTATION LIST OF SEPARATED SPOUSES [ 17 - 20 ]	4	ND	B6
		<b>PAR 7/7/2008 NLRRF06-114/7</b>			

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.

RECEIVED 13 NOV 86 11

TO POINDEXTER

FROM BRAUN, KEITH

DOCDATE 05 NOV 86

KEYWORDS: USSR

HUMAN RIGHTS

MP

SUBJECT: LTR TO JMP FM BRAUN RE PROPOSED MTG W/ REPS DIVIDED SPOUSES COALITION

\*\*\*\*\*

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR POINDEXTER DUE: 25 NOV 86 STATUS S FILES WH

\*\*\*\*\*

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

DOBRIANSKY

MANDEL

MATLOCK

CLOSE OUT. -

JACK MATCOCK & PAUCA DOBRIANSKY  
WILL MEET W/ DIV. SPOUSES COALITION  
ON NOV. 17.

COMMENTS

PI) 11 / 13 / 86

REF# LOG NSCIFID ( LB )

\*\*\*\*\*

ACTION OFFICER (S)	ASSIGNED	ACTION REQUIRED	DUE	COPIES TO

ISPATCH \_\_\_\_\_ W/ATTCH FILE \_\_\_\_\_ (C)

NOV 10 1986

25251 Maplebrooke  
Southfield, MI 48034  
313-256-7646  
November 5, 1986

Vice Admiral John Poindexter  
National Security Affairs Advisor  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Vice Admiral Poindexter:

Several representatives of the Divided Spouses Coalition, the organization of American citizens who have been denied by the Soviet government the right to live with their Soviet spouses, will be in Washington on November 17 and would like to request a meeting with you.

We understand that you are familiar with the issue and have recently met with the parents of one of our group, Susan Graham. We believe that a meeting with our group will allow us to convey our plight to you and generate valuable publicity at a crucial time (the CSCE Conference in Vienna is in its early stages).

We are appreciative of the efforts that the American government has made for us in Iceland and in other forums and hope that we will have the opportunity to meet with you.

Sincerely,



Keith Braun

cc Paula Dobriansky





James Madison University  
Department of Economics

November 12, 1986

Paula J. Dobriansky  
Director, European and Soviet Affairs  
National Security Council  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20506

*copy of letter  
to 13 senators &  
Congressmen who signed  
letter of protest to  
State Department*

Dear Ms. Dobriansky:

I wish to express my gratitude for your firm support of the human rights of American and Soviet citizens who have been prevented from marrying after having legally registered to do so. I know that I speak for others in a similar situation such as Elizabeth Condon of Massachusetts and Doug Snyder of Arizona in this sentiment.

We have learned that the State Department has not as of yet responded in any way to the October 31 letter of support you signed. One apparent response is clear in that Secretary Shultz apparently did not submit the names of blocked marriage cases at Vienna, much less at Iceland. By not sufficiently supporting us the State Department rewards the Kremlin for its denial of our rights and encourages them to continue such behavior.

Indeed there seems to be an increase in such cases recently. Since the letter you signed was sent another case has emerged. Antonette Bohonovsky of New York was blocked from marrying her fiance in Kiev in May. He was arrested on unknown charges and has been sentenced to a three years term. She was detained and interrogated at length in a hospital. This further shows that the Soviets view persons in our circumstances as being without rights and indicates the urgency of getting the State Department to take our cases more seriously.

With respect to my own case my finacee Marina Vcherashnaya telephoned me on November 10 to tell me that my sixth visa to go to the USSR had just been rejected. This application was for a visiting a relative visa and was made in response to an OVIR phone call to Marina in early September. I had to talk Marina out of going on a hunger strike.

I and possibly others in our situation will be in Washington on Monday, November 17 with the Divided Spouses Coalition. We shall all be meeting with a variety of officials including hopefully as many members of Congress as possible. Also we shall have a press conference although I am uncertain of time and location at this point. Keith Braun of Detroit and Jill Goldenberg of Senator Paul Simon's office are handling these matters. I urge your continued support in as many ways as possible. Thank you again.

Sincerely,

J. Barkley Rosser, Jr.  
Associate Professor of Economics

FACT SHEET : ANDREA WINE & VICTOR FAERMARK

Andrea Wine is a native-born US citizen. She is an international management consultant now working in England. Her Soviet husband, Victor Faermark, 44, has a post-graduate degree in chemistry. He was working as a research scientist at the time of his first application to emigrate from the USSR in 1971. Immediately upon applying to emigrate, he was fired from his job and was subsequently refused "permission" on the grounds of "possession of state secrets". Since 1971 he has not done any work which could be remotely classified as "secret" and only with difficulty has he been able to find employment as an engineer. He has continually received refusals to his, by now, more than one dozen applications to emigrate.

Andrea and Victor met in 1973 when she was working for the United States Information Agency Cultural Exchange Exhibit in the Soviet Union. On November 21st 1985 they were finally married in Moscow in accordance with Soviet law. Shortly thereafter Victor applied for permission to be reunited with his wife in the West. On Monday, June 16 1986 he was called in by the visa authorities and was informed that his application was once more rejected on the grounds of "secrecy". These grounds are completely unacceptable since Mr Gorbachev and other Soviet officials have stated publicly that 10 years would be more than sufficient "declassification time" to permit emigration on valid family reunification grounds to people who had at one time had secret work.

CONTACT ADDRESSES :

Andrea Wine In the U.K.  
27 Moreton Place  
LONDON SW1V 2NL  
Tel : (01) 630 5433

& in the US :  
11 D Rothwell Drive  
Cranbury, New Jersey  
Tel : 609-395-7660

Victor Faermark :

USSR  
RSFSR  
Moscow 109029  
Srednyeh-Kalitnikovskaya 24, no.30  
(no phone)



BRAUN FAMILY

American

Keith Brian Braun  
25251 Maplebrooke  
Southfield, MI 48034  
born July 12, 1959 in Detroit  
attorney

Soviet

Svetlana Ilyinichna Braun  
Moscow 127521  
Ul. Sheremetyevskaya  
dom 69a, kv. 23  
born June 3, 1963 in Orsk

Dates of Application

August 25, 1984  
May 15, 1985  
January 24, 1986  
October 8, 1986

Dates of Refusal

November 23, 1984  
July 26, 1985  
April 15, 1986

Explanation

Not in the Soviet interest  
No explanation provided  
No explanation provided

Visits to the U.S.S.R.

December 1983 - January 1984  
May 1984  
August 1984  
March - April 1985  
November - December 1985  
May - June 1986  
December 1986

Marriage Date

August 9, 1984

Visits Denied

April 1986





# VIEWPOINT

## Separation

We don't have a phone link with the Kremlin, but we suspect the Soviet Union has a logical reason for denying JMU economics professor Dr. J. Barkley Rosser the privilege of returning to Russia and marrying his fiancée, who is forbidden to leave that country.

Based on what Dr. Rosser said Thursday, we predict the Soviets would justify their refusal to let Marina Vcherashnaya come to the United States on the grounds that it is in her best interests not to do so. And of course the Soviet authorities know best about an individual's interests.

The Soviets would have valid reasons for thinking this way. After all, who in their right mind wants to live in an economically exploitative society such as the United States? A person, according to Marxist-Leninist interpretation, can live as a true individual only in a socialist/communist state such as the Soviet Union. Trust us, the KGB must be saying to Vcherashnaya, we're only doing this for your own good.

We're not impressed. The communist view of American society, whether or not one subscribes to it (we don't), is totally irrelevant in this case. Even if it were realistic, there is no reason to deny any person the right to live where he or she chooses, whether or not the Soviet authorities think it's a mistake to do so.

In a world full of opposing religions, cultures and political ideologies, individual people often must pay the price for the "needs" of large institutions (in this case, the Soviet state). The tragedy of this kind of conflict is no more vivid than in the all-too-common instances of divided loved ones. And it is especially vivid for us at JMU in the case of Rosser and Vcherashnaya.

Our sympathies go out to Rosser in his continuing effort to return to the Soviet Union. And although it might not be listening, we call upon the Soviet Union to allow Marina Vcherashnaya to leave her native country. Surely, it is not too much to ask of any government.

*The above editorial is the opinion of The Breeze editorial board.*

*The board consists of editor Kyra Scarton, managing editor Mark Charnock, editorial editor Charles Lundy and assistant editorial editor Harry Atwood.*

—Stephen Rountree—

## DISCONNECTED





# Iron Curtain falls on Pompano woman's reunion

By Steven Girardi

Staff Writer

**POMPANO BEACH** — Nearly 40 years of life under Soviet rule prepared Dr. Galina Vileshina for the disappointing news that shattered what little hope she had of being reunited with her husband.

The Lithuanian immigrant, who came to the United States six years ago with her two children, learned on Thursday that her husband, Petras Pakenas, will not be among the 117 Soviet citizens allowed to join their families in America.

One night earlier, she was giddy with anticipation.

"My only hope now is to make noise," said Vileshina, who has spoken with several newspaper and television reporters in the past two days. "For six years I was quiet, trying to get him here, but it doesn't help."

Vileshina, 50, a neurologist at the Center for Neurological Services in Fort Lauderdale, left her husband in Lithuania, a republic of the U.S.S.R., in 1980. Neither she nor her children, Alex, 22, and Lora, 27, who are in New York, have seen him since.

She moved to Pompano Beach seven months ago.

Following the Geneva Summit last November, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev announced that he would resolve 33 divided-family cases by allowing Soviet citizens to leave the country. But Vileshina said she was told by U.S. State Department officials that the Soviets made no concession to reunite 21 divided spouses, including her husband, seeking exit visas.

She was disappointed but not

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**“My only hope now is to make noise. For six years I was quiet, trying to get him here, but it doesn't help.”**

**— Dr. Galina Vileshina**

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divided spouses,” Vileshina said, suggesting that Soviet officials will use the people as bargaining chips during arms control talks. “They’ve become merchandise, that’s what my husband explained to me [on Wednesday].”

It was a love of freedom that caused the couple to separate in 1980. Although apart, Vileshina said her thoughts and emotions have been with her husband, a lawyer who has been banished to working in a Lithuanian meat factory.

“Six years I’m suffering,” she said. “He writes me letters every day for these six years. Not one day he misses.”

“Every week I’m on the phone with him. Sometimes twice a week. Only to survive. His pictures are all in my apartment, on the walls. Every day I look at him and I pray [to] God.”

Born and educated in Lithuania, Vileshina was 4 years old when the Soviets took over her homeland. She was 44 before she escaped the communist rule.

Before that, she graduated from a university and then worked for 20 years at the metro hospital in the capital city of Vilnius, where she became chief of the neurology department.

Anxious to flee the U.S.S.R.,



Staff photo by URSULA SEEMAN

... husband who is in Russia







# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

## SHORT BIOGRAPHIES OF SOVIET DIVIDED SPOUSES AND BLOCKED MARRIAGE CASES November 17, 1986

SVETLANA BRAUN (KEITH BRAUN-DETROIT, MICHIGAN)  
Twenty-three year old Svetlana married Keith on August 9, 1984. She has been refused three times without explanation. Svetlana applied for the fourth time on October 8, 1986. Keith is planning a seventh trip to visit his wife in December.

SONIA MELNIKOVA-EICHENVALD (MICHAEL LAVIGNE-BERKELEY, CA)  
Sonia has applied to leave the USSR fifteen times, first to Israel, and then to the U.S. as Michael's wife. There has never been a reason for any refusal. Michael gave up his career in California and became a nanny for a family in the American Embassy in Moscow, and later worked in the New Zealand Embassy in order to be near Sonia, but in May 1986, he lost his Soviet visa and was forced to return to America, where he now waits for Sonia's release.

MARINA VCHERASHNAYA (BARKLEY ROSSER-HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA)  
Barkley and Marina have attempted to be married for two years. Their marriage was blocked by the Soviets in November, 1984. Barkley just received his sixth denial for a visa to enter the Soviet Union.

PYATRAS PAKENAS (GALINA VILESHINA-FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA)  
Pyatras first applied to emigrate in 1978. He has been refused sixteen times. Pyatras never dealt with secrets. He has been refused without any reason. The last denial came in October, 1986. The local authorities tell Pyatras that they must receive an answer from Moscow. Unfortunately, the local authorities refuse to send Pyatras' papers to Moscow.

VICTOR FAERMARK (ANDREA WINE-CRANBURY, NEW JERSEY)  
Victor first applied to emigrate in 1971. At that time he was fired from his job as a research scientist. Victor has been refused for fifteen years on the grounds of secrecy even though his last contact with any sort of classified information was 1971. Since then, only with difficulty has he been able to find employment as an engineer. Victor's most recent refusal to join Andrea came in June, 1986.

NINA FYODOROVNA SMITH (MICHAEL SMITH-RESEDA, CALIFORNIA)  
Nina and Michael met in April of 1980 and were married in Moscow the following April. Nina has applied for exit permission on seven occasions and has been refused each time. Nina's most recent refusal came in May of 1986. Michael has just returned from visiting Nina in the Soviet Union.

DIVIDED SPOUSES

Soviet spouse

Yuri Balovlenkov  
Ul. Smolenskaya  
Dom 12, kv. 21  
Moscow

Mikhail Dmitrievich Bogomolov  
Vladimirskii Prospekt 10, kv. 31  
Leningrad

Svetlana Ilyinichna Braun  
Ul. Sheremetyevskaya  
Dom 69a, kv. 23  
Moscow 127521

Victor M. Novikov  
Ul. Novatorov  
House 36, Bldg.9, Apt. 54  
Moscow 117421

Dmitri Vlasenkov  
Ul. Fectival'naya  
Dom 20, kv. 32  
Moscow

Vladislav Aleksandrovich Kostin  
Karl Marx Street  
House 9, Bldg. 2, Apt. 24  
Moscow 103064

Matvey Finkel  
Ul. Snezhraya  
Dom 6, kv. 2  
Moscow 129323

Lydia Mikhailovna Jachno  
Ul. Ukrainskaya, 8, kv. 93  
Zaporozhye 330054  
Ukrainian SSR

Mariya Jurgutiene  
16 Taykos Street, kv. 3  
Yushtinishdas  
Vilnius  
Lithuanian SSR

Sonia Melnikova-Eichenvald  
Ul. Sedova  
Kor. 2, kv. 66  
Moscow 129323

American spouse

Elena K. Balovlenkov  
17 S. Conkling Street  
Baltimore, MD 21224

Tammy Resler Bogomolov  
3903 Botanical Ave.,  
Apt. E  
St. Louis, MO 63110

Keith B. Braun  
25251 Maplebrooke  
Southfield, MI 48034

Elizabeth Condon  
87 Newton Avenue  
Lynn, MA 01905

Sioban Darrow  
31 Lincoln Avenue  
Highland Park, NJ 08904

Helena Goscilo  
1015 Portland Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Susan Graham  
1527 E. Rockwood Blvd.  
Spokane, WA 99203

Peter Jachno  
P.O. Box 51626  
Pacific Groves, CA 93950

Aloyzas Jurgutis  
1231 N. June Street  
N. Hollywood, CA 90038

Michael Lavigne  
1529 Visalia Avenue  
Berkeley, CA 94707

//

DIVIDED SPOUSES

Soviet spouses

Galina A. McFaul  
Prospekt Gargarina  
24-1-109  
Leningrad 196211

Galina Goltzman Michelson  
Prospekt Vernadskogo  
59, kv. 156  
Moscow

Marina R. Vcherashnaya  
21-49 Sadovo Kudrinskaya  
Moscow 103001

Nina Fyodorvna Ilynoy Smith  
Ul. Veshnyakovskaya  
Dom 11, korp. 1, kv. 222  
Moscow 111539

Elena Kaplan  
Moscow

Pyatras Yuozo Pakenas  
13 Komunaru Street, apt. 7  
Vilnius  
Lithuanian SSR

Yelena Maratovna Krylova  
Korablestroiteley 39, kv. 687  
Leningrad

Victor Moiseevich Faermark  
Srednye-Kalitnikovskaya 24, kv. 30  
Moscow 109029

American spouse

Rod McFaul  
1824 Burdette  
New Orleans, LA 70118

Anatoly Michelson  
1700 Ben Franklin Drive  
Sarasota, FL 33577

J. Barkley Rosser, Jr.  
107 Clinton Street  
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Mike Smith  
7456 Vanalden Avenue  
Reseda, CA 91335

Gary Talanov  
10 Thornton Court  
Novato, CA

Galina Vileshina  
180 Cypress Club Drive  
Pompano Beach, FL 33060

*3051 S. Ocean Blvd.  
Boca Raton FL #707  
33432*  
Richard J. Watson  
46 State Street  
Penns Grove, NJ 08069

Andrea Wine  
11d Rothwell Drive  
Cranbury, NJ 05821



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## SUMMARY OF ROSSER-VCHERASHNAYA CASE

On August 15, 1984, J. Barkley Rosser Jr. of Harrisonburg, VA became legally registered to marry Marina R. Vcherashnaya of Moscow. Their wedding date was to have been November 13, 1984. OVIR denied his request for a visa without explanation thus illegally blocking their marriage. Marina lost her job and her family also suffered adverse professional consequences.

In the fall of 1985, Mr. Rosser became the first person ever to be accepted for a Fulbright fellowship by the Soviet Ministry of Higher Education and then refused a visa, again without explanation. Presumably such unprecedented discrimination reflected the Soviet government's desire to keep Barkley and Marina apart.

In December of 1985, Mr. Rosser was denied a tourist visa to travel to Moscow from Amsterdam. In May and August of 1986, he was denied personalized tourist visas. These efforts were accompanied by appeals to General Secretary Gorbachev to resolve their case in a "positive and humane" manner.

In September, OVIR telephoned Marina and informed her that she had a "right to request" a visa for Mr. Rosser to visit. Such an application was made in October. On November 10, Marina was informed that the application had been rejected on grounds that Mr. Rosser had not applied for such a visa (through OVIR) during the previous two years. Barkley had to talk Marina out of going on a hunger strike as a result of this latest rejection.

Mr. Rosser now plans to directly invite Marina to come to the U.S. and hopes for a more "positive and humane" response.



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Washington, DC  
November 17, 1986

His Excellency Yuri Dubinin  
Ambassador of the Union of Soviet  
Socialist Republics  
1125 16th Street N.W.  
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

We regret that you were unable to meet with us today. Nonetheless, in order to aid Mr. Kuleshov in accurately conveying to you the points we will be raising in our meeting, we prepared this letter.

As you know, in September, ten members of our group met with Mr. Diachenko and Mr. Zhvakin. The information solicited from us at this meeting for transmittal to Moscow has thus far brought no response.

Last week in Vienna, two members of our group, Andrea Wine and Susan Graham, had the opportunity to speak directly and amiably with Messrs. Lomeiko, Gerasimov, Grinyevsky, Morozov and Yevstafyev. All of these gentlemen portrayed our problem as a result of bureaucratic inefficiency. However, they were unable to respond to our observation, in contradiction to their explanation, that all of the divided spouse cases resolved within the last twelve months have coincided with major international meetings.

In view of the above, we therefore feel the need to pursue direct contacts with your government to resolve this matter. To that end:

- 1) We respectfully request your assistance in organizing the meetings promised for December in Moscow with Soviet officials. Three of us, Andrea Wine, Michael Lavigne and Keith Braun, will be visiting our spouses from December 20-January 4. We want to speak with General Secretary Gorbachev because we are certain that he will want to solve this matter together with us. Other top level officials may feel it appropriate to meet with us as well.
- 2) We ask that you ensure transmittal of our case list to Moscow once again.

- 3) In view of the new guidelines and administrative procedures regarding family reunification, we want to know exactly when we will be reunited with our loved ones.
- 4) We ask for clarification as to how the new guidelines referred to in point #3 affect cases of long-term blocked marriages.

We noted with great interest Foreign Minister Shevardnadze's comment on marriages of mixed nationality in his address to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe meeting in Vienna recently. We also noted his comments regarding the paramount significance the Soviet Union attaches to the Helsinki Final Act. The Foreign Minister also declared that his words were not just for propaganda export. Therefore, we are certain that you will reply to us regarding the aforementioned points. You may contact any one of us listed below, especially those who will be travelling to Moscow in December.

We look forward to your news and remain,

Sincerely yours,

FOR THE DIVIDED SPOUSES COALITION

Keith Braun *Keith Braun*  
 Michael Lavigne *Michael Lavigne*  
 Barkley Rosser *Barkley Rosser*  
 Michael Smith *Michael R. Smith*  
 Galina Vileshina *Galina Vileshina*  
 Andrea Wine *Andrea Wine*

ADDRESSES

Keith Braun  
 25251 Maplebrooke  
 Southfield, MI 48034

Michael Lavigne  
 1529 Visalia Avenue  
 Berkeley, CA 94707

Barkley Rosser  
 107 Clinton Street  
 Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Michael Smith  
 7456 Vanalden Avenue  
 Reseda, CA 91335

Galina Vileshina  
 3051 S. Ocean Boulevard #707  
 Boca Raton, FL 33432

Andrea Wine  
 11D Rothwell Drive  
 Cranbury, NJ 08521

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

November 14, 1986

TO: FREDERICK J. RYAN, JR., DIRECTOR,  
PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS AND SCHEDULING

FROM: MARI MASENG, DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE  
PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF  
PUBLIC LIAISON

RODNEY McDANIEL, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE  
PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

REQUEST: Meeting with Divided Spouses Coalition

PURPOSE: To reaffirm our commitment to human rights;  
to offset post-Reykjavik excessive media  
attention to arms control issues and keep the  
public focus on all four parts of our agenda.

BACKGROUND: As part of our post-Reykjavik and CSCE public  
diplomacy strategy, a meeting with the  
Divided Spouses Coalition (a group of  
Americans married to Soviet nationals who  
have been unable to reunify their families)  
would highlight and reinforce, both  
domestically and internationally, the  
President's strong commitment to human  
rights.

PREVIOUS  
PARTICIPATION: None

DATE AND TIME: January 1987                      DURATION: 15 minutes

LOCATION: Cabinet Room

PARTICIPANTS: Divided Spouses Coalition, approx. sixteen  
members, including Keith Braun, Elena  
Balovlenkov, Susan Graham, Michael Lavigne,  
Anatoly Michelson, Andrea Wine

OUTLINE OF EVENTS: President enters Cabinet Room, welcomes  
guests with brief remarks and opens to  
questions and answers. He receives guests  
(photo-op) as they depart.

REMARKS REQUIRED: Talking points

MEDIA COVERAGE: TBD

RECOMMENDED BY: Mari Maseng, NSC (Staff)

PROJECT OFFICER: Linas Kojelis, x6753

MARY -

16

IMPORTANT  
DOCUMENT -

FILE DIVIDED  
SPOUSES

b6

17

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

U.S. GOVERNMENT  
EXIT VISA  
REPRESENTATION LIST  
OF  
SEPARATED SPOUSES

DECLASSIFIED IN PART  
NLRR Feb 7/4/7 #9546  
BY CW NARA/DATL 7/7/08

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>PLACE AND DATE OF LAST SOVIET EXIT DOCUMENTATION APPLICATION OR REFUSAL</u>	<u>SPOUSE</u>
BALOVLENKOV, Yuri <i>Married 12/78</i>	Moscow Ul. Smolenskaya Dom 10, Kv. 21	Moscow May 1985	Elena Kusmenko Balovlenkov and children, Katerina and Marisa [REDACTED]
BOGOMOLOV, Mikhail <i>Married 6/85</i>	Leningrad Vladimirskiy Prospekt Dom 10, Kv. 31	Leningrad May 1986	Tammy J. Resler (Bogomolova) [REDACTED]
BRAUN, Svetlana Ilyinichna <i>Married 8/84</i>	Moscow 127521 Ul. Sheremetyevskaya Dom 69A, Kv. 23	Moscow April 1986	Keith Braun [REDACTED]
FINKEL, Matvey <i>Married 12/79</i>	Moscow 129323 Ul. Snezhnaya Dom 6, Kv. 2	Moscow January 1986	Susan Graham [REDACTED]
GOLTZMAN, Galina Olga (daughter) Anatoly (grandson) <i>Married 3/40</i>	Moscow Prospekt Vernadskogo Dom 59, Kv. 156	Moscow June 1986	Anatoly Michelson [REDACTED]
JACHNO, Lydia Mikhailovna Daniil (son) <i>Married 71</i>	Zaporozhie 330054 Ul. Ukrainskaya 8 Kv. 93	Moscow July 1986	Peter S. Jachno (husband-USC) [REDACTED]
JURGUTIENE, Mariya JURGUTIS, Diana (daughter) <i>Married before husband's defection in 74</i>	Vilnius Yushtinishdas 16 Taykos Ul., Kv. 3	Vilnius June 1983	Aloyzas Jurgutis [REDACTED]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

page 2

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>PLACE AND DATE OF LAST SOVIET EXIT DOCUMENTATION APPLICATION OR REFUSAL</u>	<u>SPOUSE</u>
KAPLAN, Elena <i>married 4/78</i>	Moscow Ul. Shkalova Dom 5, Kv. 24	Moscow November 1984	Gary Talanov [REDACTED]
KOLDRE, Valentin <i>married 10/82</i>	Tallin Pihlaka 32 Kv. 5	Tallin March 1986	Lillian Koldre [REDACTED]
KOSTIN, Vladislav <i>married 11/79</i>	Moscow 103064 Ul. Karla Marksa Dom 9, Korpus 2, Kv. 24	Moscow January 1986	Helena Goscilo [REDACTED]
KRYLOVA, Yelena <i>married 83</i>	Leningrad Ul. Korablestroiteley 39 Kv. 687	Leningrad October 1985	Richard J. Watson [REDACTED]
KUPERMAN, Roman <i>married 2/82 In Sept. 86 promised exit permission but has not yet departed</i>	Moscow 117296 Leninskiy Prospekt Dom 73/8, Kv. 246	Moscow April 1986	Frances Pergericht [REDACTED]
MELNIKOVA-EICHENWALD, Sonia <i>married 4/85</i>	Moscow Ul. Sedova 10 Kor. 2, Kv. 66	Moscow March 1986	Michael N. Lavigne [REDACTED]
PAKENAS, Petras Tuozo <i>married before wife emigrated in 1980</i>	Litovskaya, Lithuania Ul. Komunarov Kv. 7	Vilnius March 1986	Galina Vileshina [REDACTED]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>PLACE AND DATE OF LAST SOVIET EXIT DOCUMENTATION APPLICATION OR REFUSAL</u>	<u>SPOUSE</u>
PETROV, Sergey <i>MARRIED 12/81</i>	Moscow 12545 Belomorskaya Dom 5/3, Kv. 385	Moscow August 1985	Virginia Hurt Johnson [REDACTED]
REZIAN, Poghos <i>MARRIED 10/81 In 9/86 promised exit per- mission but has not yet departed.</i>	Yerevan 30 Shaumyan No. 79 Ul. 20, Dom 11	Yerevan June 1986	Gohar Rezian [REDACTED]
SMITH, Nina <i>MARRIED 4/81</i>	Moscow E-539 Ul. Veshnyakovskaya Dom 11, Korpus 1, Kv. 222	Moscow June 1986	Michael R. Smith [REDACTED]
TRETYAKOVA, Tamara LIVSHITS, Mark (son) <i>MARRIED 1978 In 9/86 promised exit per- mission but has not yet departed.</i>	Moscow 121096 Ul. Seslavinskaya 20 Kv. 28	Moscow April 1986	Simon Levin [REDACTED]
VLASENKOV, Dmitriy <i>MARRIED 3/81</i>	Moscow Ul. Festival'naya 29 Dom 20, Kv. 32	Moscow July 1986	Siobhan Darrow [REDACTED]
ZHUKOVSKI, Evgeniy Alexander <i>MARRIED 7/83 In 9/86 promised exit per- mission but has not yet departed.</i>	Leningrad Nab. Chernoy Rechki Dom 12, Kv. 69	Leningrad January 1986	Francine Louise Alfandary [REDACTED]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



FILE  
DIVIDED  
SPOUSES

Dimitri Agnew



X Keith Agnew 313-256-7646

X Gregory Polonsky 301-342-2758

Michaell 813-388-1252

Julia Schickel 718-~~489-5480~~  
997-0120 X

Michael La Digne 415-434-2691

Annex Lewis 312-689-7177

per Ruthy Long 647-8670



NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

7607

December 18, 1986

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR RONALD B. McDANIEL

FROM: PAULA DOBRIANSKY <sup>PD</sup>

SUBJECT: Letter to Mrs. Reagan from Mr. & Mrs. Graham

Attached at Tab I is a memorandum for Jack Courtemanche apprising him that a letter to Mr. & Mrs. Graham regarding the emigration of their daughter's husband, Matvey Finkel, a Soviet citizen, has been sent by the President -- and a letter from Mrs. Reagan on the same subject is not warranted.

~~Matlock~~ <sup>FM</sup> ~~Sable, Lavin and Mandel~~ <sup>not available</sup> concur.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memorandum at Tab I.

Approve \_\_\_\_\_

Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

Attachments

- Tab I      McDaniel/Courtemanche Memo
- Tab A      Incoming



29

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

7607

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR JACK COURTEMANCHE

FROM: RODNEY B. McDANIEL

SUBJECT: Letter to Mr. & Mrs. Graham

Mr. & Mrs. Graham have written a letter to Mrs. Reagan regarding the emigration to the US of their daughter's husband, Matvey Finkel, a Soviet citizen. The President met with Mr. & Mrs. Graham in Spokane, Washington, on October 31 -- and a letter is being sent to the Grahams from the President. Therefore, a letter from Mrs. Reagan on the same subject is not necessary.

Attachments

Tab A Incoming Correspondence



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

10/8/86

TO: *Frank Lovin*

FROM: Jack L. Courtemanche  
Chief of Staff to the First Lady  
and Deputy Assistant  
to the President  
456-2957

SUBJECT: *ICelms*



The attached is for you:

- Information
- Direct Response
- Draft Letter
- Files
- Review & Comment
- Appropriate Action
- Signature
- Other

Comments:

*Would you please handle. —*





HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
OFFICE OF THE MAJORITY WHIP  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

THOMAS S. FOLEY  
MAJORITY WHIP

October 7, 1986

Dear Dave:

Enclosed is a letter to Mrs. Reagan from Mr. and Mrs. Robert Graham of Spokane, WA. They are the parents of Susan Graham-Finkel who is married to a Soviet citizen, Matvey Finkel, with whom she is temporarily residing in Moscow.

Susan is a member of the Divided Spouse Coalition whose desire to be reunited with their Soviet citizen husbands or wives has been a priority concern of our government's human rights discussions with the Soviet Union. Susan and her parents hope that this subject will again be of the highest priority in the President's up-coming meetings with General Secretary Gorbachev and in particular they hope that Mrs. Reagan, should she meet with Mrs. Gorbachev, take the opportunity to bring up this very important issue.

The Grahams have asked that I forward this letter to the White House for Mrs. Reagan's consideration. I hope that you will convey to her and the President my own deep concern on this matter as well as my appreciation for all their past efforts in support of the divided spouses.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas S. Foley  
Majority Whip

Mr. David Bockorny  
Special Assistant to the President  
112 East Wing  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

UNCLASSIFIED

26

(Classification)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT  
TRANSMITTAL FORM

S/S # 8633339

Date: November 21, 1986

FOR: VADM JOHN M. POINDEXTER  
National Security Council  
The White House

Reference:

To: Mrs. Reagan From: Mr. and Mrs. Graham  
Date: October 6, 1986 Subject: Their Daughter Susan is  
Married to Soviet Citizen Matvey Finkel, Who Cannot Emigrate  
WH Referral Dated: October 23, 1986 NSC ID# 8607607  
(if any)

\_\_\_\_\_ The attached item was sent directly to the  
Department of State

Action Taken:

- 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: Paula Dobriansky of the NSC is preparing a reply from the President to Mr. and Mrs. Graham on the same subject; this reply, therefore, may not be necessary.

*May D. Haines*  
Nicholas Platt  
Executive Secretary

UNCLASSIFIED

(Classification)

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STATE DEPARTMENT  
DRAFT REPLY

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Graham:

Thank you for your letter of October 6 to Mrs. Reagan concerning your daughter, Susan, and her husband, Matvey Finkel.

Since you wrote, you have met with President Reagan in Spokane, and Susan has met with Secretary Shultz in Vienna. As the President and the Secretary both emphasized, we have made it clear to the Soviets at all our high-level meetings that the United States places great importance on the issue of American citizens separated from their Soviet spouses. Susan's case is a particularly touching and urgent one, and I assure you that we are actively working to persuade the Soviets to allow Matvey to come to the United States.

Please convey the best wishes of President and Mrs. Reagan to Susan and let her know that we are making every effort to reunite her with Matvey.

Sincerely,



REFERRAL

DATE: 23 OCT 86

MEMORANDUM FOR: DEPT OF STATE

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION:

TO: MS REAGAN

SOURCE: GRAHAM, ANNA M

DATE: 06 OCT 86

KEYWORDS: USSR

HUMAN RIGHTS

SUSAN, G FINKEL

MP

CONGRESSIONAL

MATVEY, FINKEL

SUBJ: LTR TO MRS REAGAN FM GRAHAM RE DAUGHTER & HUSBAND WHO ARE DIVIDED

REQUIRED ACTION: DRAFT REPLY FOR WH SIG

DUE DATE: 03 NOV 86

COMMENTS:

FOR *Rodney B. McDaniel*

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

20

# Robert H. Graham

---

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

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

30  
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



NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

December 19, 1986

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ALTON G. KEEL

FROM:

PAULA DOBRIANSKY *PD*

SUBJECT:

Presidential Letter to Mr. & Mrs. Robert Graham

Attached at Tab I is a memorandum for the President forwarding a letter to Mr. & Mrs. Graham (Tab A), whom he met in Spokane, Washington, on October 31. 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.

Per your request, Embassy Moscow has been authorized to make an oral demarche on behalf of Matvey Finkel.

The text of the letter has been cleared by Speechwriters.

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 M/M Graham
Tab B	Incoming Correspondence

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

8154 add-on

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: ALTON G. KEEL

SUBJECT: Letter to Mr. & Mrs. Graham

Issue

Letter Mr. & Mrs. Robert 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

We have instructed Embassy Moscow to make an oral demarche on behalf of Matvey Finkel.

Recommendation

OK

No

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

That you sign the letter to Mr. & Mrs. Graham at Tab A.

Attachments

Tab A Letter to Grahams  
Tab B Incoming Correspondence

Prepared by:  
Paula Dobriansky

73

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*  
Anna Mae Graham

- 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.

38

# Robert H. Graham

---

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

October 30, 1986  
Spokane, WA

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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  
SMALL BUSINESS  
INDIAN AFFAIRS

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

U.S. SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
(202) 224-2621 29

2988 JACKSON FEDERAL BUILDING  
915 SECOND AVENUE  
SEATTLE, WA 98174  
(206) 442-5545

770 U.S. COURT HOUSE  
W. 920 RIVERSIDE AVENUE  
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,

[Handwritten signature of Slade Gorton]

SLADE GORTON
United States Senator

[Handwritten signature of Daniel J. Evans]

DANIEL J. EVANS
United States Senator

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# 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

43  
Robert H. Graham

---

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

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. Hollan (Lae Asolpson)

Anna B. Kipper

Delora J. Zinn

Kodie Moran

Brenda J. Stone

Linda Peterson

Jeanne Hauke

Glaci Welberry

Gail Sandeen

Gandra Hjermsen

Beverly Cooker

Janet Williams

Janet Williams

Claudia Sobczuk

Dayle Jordan

Leslie Hitt

Shadi Aven

Claudia Miller

Linda Peterson

Dorothy M. Olsen

L. J. J. J.

C. J. J. J.

J. Worth

M. J. J. J.

Shirley Schulte

Nancy Roland GOP

Cindy Schukay GOP

Robert Omer

K. J. J. J.

Dan Bergman

Janice M. Bergman

Barbara L. Davis

Dorothy Ackerman GOP

Lynn Brockley

Julie A. Keros GOP

Linda Berger

Jocetta Johnson

Thelma J. J. J.

Gary O'Leary

Shirley Crummett

Helen M. Dittler

Leta Martin

Bela Hendry

L. J. J. J.

Laurie Henderson

L. J. J. J.

Bradley Martin

Robert J. J. J.

Dennis A. Moll



NAME

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

<u>Irma Sheward</u>	<u>E 1015 Boone, Spokane WA 99202</u>
<u>Sandra K. Goben</u>	<u>E 3403 Jackson Spok 99202</u>
<u>Timothy G. Smith</u>	<u>71705 - 40th St Spokane 99205</u>
<u>Dinda F. Hayward</u>	<u>1618 E Dalton 99209</u>
<u>Janni L. Lutz</u>	<u>E 3403 Jackson 99207</u>
<u>Lowell Herbold</u>	<u>1912 W GRAPE Spok WA 99205</u>
<u>Alberta Kestrand</u>	<u>W. 2911 Ft. Wright Dr. Spokane, Wa.</u>
<u>Sister Violeta ...</u>	<u>" " " " " "</u>
<u>Sister Frances Brennan</u>	<u>W. 2911 Ft. Wright Dr. Spokane, Wa</u>
<u>Sister Margaret McNamee</u>	<u>W. 2911 Ft. Wright Dr. Spokane, Wa.</u>
<u>Sister Lena ...</u>	<u>W. 2911 Ft. Wright Dr. Spokane, Wa.</u>
<u>Margaret M. Hansen</u>	<u>W. 2911 Ft. Wright Dr. Spokane, Wa.</u>
<u>Selma Husley</u>	<u>1015 E Boone Ave Spokane Wa 99202</u>
<u>Leatha F. Dard</u>	<u>Fort Wright Drive N. Spok</u>
<u>Margaret L. Sagers</u>	<u>W. 2911 Ft. Wright Dr.</u>
<u>Mary Anne Salmons</u>	<u>W. 2911 Ft. Wright Dr. Spokane 99204</u>
<u>L. Bernita</u>	<u>W. 2911 Ft. Wright Dr. Spokane 99204</u>
<u>Sister Thomas Mary Smith</u>	<u>W. 2911 Fort Wright Dr. Spokane 99204</u>
<u>Mary June Crisibald</u>	<u>" " " " " "</u>
<u>Wajel Pitchard</u>	<u>W 2911 Fort Wright Drive</u>
<u>Eleanor Milnor</u>	<u>W 2911 Fort Wright Drive</u>
<u>Kathleen M. Gannon</u>	<u>W-2911 Fort Wright Dr</u>
<u>Margaret M. Viter</u>	<u>W. 2911 Fort Wright Dr.</u>
<u>Darlene Emission</u>	<u>E 6517 7th</u>
<u>Michael Stevenson</u>	<u>E 911 N. ... Spokane Wash</u>
<u>Marion M. Binfield</u>	<u>711213 Astor Ct. Spokane.</u>
<u>Sarah S. Donnelly</u>	<u>W 2911 Ft. Wright Dr.</u>
<u>Sandra Ann ...</u>	<u>" " " " " "</u>
<u>Patricia E. Leary</u>	<u>W. 2911 Ft. Wright Dr Spokane 99204</u>
<u>Louise D. Buch</u>	<u>" " " " " "</u>
<u>Dora ...</u>	<u>W. 2911 Ft. Wright Dr Spokane 99204</u>
<u>Rosemary Miller</u>	<u>W. 2911 - Ft. Wright Dr. Spokane Wash</u>
<u>Rosemary Albi</u>	<u>W. 2911 Ft. Wright Dr. Spokane Wa.</u>
<u>Frances O'Leary</u>	<u>W. 2911 Ft. Wright Dr. Spokane Wa.</u>
<u>Margaret Norse</u>	<u>W. 2911 Ft. Wright Drive</u>
<u>Ann ...</u>	<u>E 1015 Boone</u>
<u>Paul ...</u>	<u>1015 E Boone Spokane</u>
<u>Kathleen Peatfield</u>	<u>E 1015 Boone Spokane 99202</u>



NAME

Edith Seneca and Ann Kintoch	Foot Knight 99204 Rt 1 Box 125 Eureka, WA 99005
Ed McCone	
George S. Lehmann	N 1112 Columbus Sp 99202
Don Phe	N 26110 Yale Rd Sp 99005
Bill Phe	71 26710 Yale Rd. Chantway 99005
Ed Phe	2313 E 15th Ave.
Nancy Croshaw	2423 E 7th
Merna Mae Canderbecker	7376 N. Haneyport Cour & Dr. - Idaho 83814
William G. Gage	10 5133 Broadway, Spokane, WA 99202
Arthur Croshaw	42132 Broadway Spokane WA 99201
Donald E. Thoma	2218 Martin L King way Berkeley CA-94704
Thom Croshaw	6 1112 Harrison Drive
Virginia Sullivan	E 1015 Boone
Margaret Malley	E 1015 Boone
Thom Croshaw	E 1015 Boone 99202
Theresa M. Mathison	41512 Princeton Place 99205
Thom Croshaw	E 1015 Boone Spokane 99202
William E. Hepp	1713 W. Appleton 99205
Thom Croshaw	E 718 Boone 99202
Sarah Crowler	E 1015 Boone Ave Spokane 99202
Frances Weismeyer	E 1015 Boone Ave Spokane
Beane Struble	E 1015 Boone - Spokane - 99202
Lucille Foster	E 1015 Boone Spokane 99202
Beatrice Storms	E 1015 Boone Spokane 99202
Mary H. Struble	E 1015 Boone Spokane 99202
Sophia Sudowitz	E 1015 Boone Spokane 99202
Editha Pattis B. Pany	E 215 Boone "
Agnes King	E 1015 Boone "
Helene Masterson	1015 E Boone Spokane 99202
Jane Andgruss	E 1015 Boone Spokane
Mary Kay Linker	1015 E Boone Spokane 99202
Elizabeth Mary Hensel	E 15 NOTPA Spokane, WA
Clara M. Budig	E 1015 Boone Spokane 99202
Margaret Mary Lane	PO Box 107 Colmaud Id. 83522

NAME Please let friend Mike Graham  
see President Reagan about her daughter

Susan Graham & husband Matvey Finkel

Chris Kennedy

Patricia A. Hall

Lucille M. Chambers

Sue Collins

Sharon Jones

Paul H. Ditt.

Shirley Arnold

William Johnson

Jean Spidle

James M. Jols

Margaret Palmer

Donette Kautz

John P. Caras

Harrell H. Hunt

Melody Inzer

Pauline

Russ Johnson

Faye Moffitt

Betty Rae Joseph

Ann Phillips

Deborah Lane







Christa Schmitt  
~~Jane Schmitt~~  
 Pauline Adams  
 Gladys Campbell  
 Lynn Coffman  
 Cyndi Kinney  
~~Anna Henge~~  
 Lisa Wionick  
 Ellen Muller  
 Carol Poe  
~~Wendy Gray~~  
 Billie Mae  
 Anna Cot  
 Eleanor Stoddard  
 Elizabeth England  
 Jimmy Page  
 Karla McCarley  
 Jenny Hermann  
 Krista & Serella  
 Maurer Backman  
 Mary Jessop  
 Esther Dishman  
 Jeannine Plumber  
 Lake Sutherland  
 Jean Allbaugh  
 Candy Morgan  
 Annette Muff  
 Melba J. Holt  
 Barbara Davis  
 Barbara Lawrence  
 Marilyn Smith  
 Patricia & Arthur

Robert H. Graham

*Osborne  
or Kuhn*

52

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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:  
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND  
TRANSPORTATION  
BANKING, HOUSING, AND  
URBAN AFFAIRS  
BUDGET  
SMALL BUSINESS  
INDIAN AFFAIRS

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

U.S. SENATE OFFICE BUILDING 53  
(202) 224-2621

2988 JACKSON FEDERAL BUILDING  
915 SECOND AVENUE  
SEATTLE, WA 98174  
(206) 442-5545

770 U.S. COURT HOUSE  
W. 920 RIVERSIDE AVENUE  
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



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# 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

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# 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.

58  
Graham

Robert H. Graham

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

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

11/1/85  
Evans says "yes"  
C. Dawson & Jerry Spina  
will prepare & execute  
Telephoned Mrs. G.  
she is extremely happy.

11 pages



Graham

# Spokanite to Soviets: Free father

SR 9/13/86  
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, 68-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 9/15/86 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.

Authorities took this 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) Tretyakova," 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.

To: Heidi 281928 - 208 461582



# 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 Kusmenko, 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

## Related story page 14

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 protest 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.**



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

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 Balovienkov and Petrov. A press conference to respond officially to the protests of

Spokane  
Soviet An  
that Fink  
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dangerous  
out now is

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, "Sergi'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

# After a year of struggling, 11 days together

By MICHAEL MURPHEY  
Staff writer



SUSAN GRAHAM AND MATVEY FINKEL

Eleven days might not seem like much.

Not much of a payoff for a year of worrying whether a false step might make a difference between freedom and a lifetime of separation.

Not much of a reward for 12 months of navigating red tape, bumping through bureaucratic hoops, mocking on embassy floors, 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

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.

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



# metro

## 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 knife-point at about 10:45 p.m.

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

Michael Gooch, 20, W29 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 57.5 percent of the money needed will be sought from state lake restoration funds and 52 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 night as she attempted to make a night deposit at the Washington Trust Bank at Shanno and Monroe.

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.

Police described the male suspect as being about 5 feet 2, wearing a black sweater, blue jeans and gray ski mask.

The suspect who obtained an unknown amount of cash was last seen running through the alley of alley of the store manager and the name of the store manager and the re-

# Soviet police foil meeting with Bonker

C 3/7/83 P 95

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.

And since she was expelled from the Soviet Union on May 9, 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 growled at each other. It was a hopeless feeling to think that the might hinge on fallout from a statement made by a press desk or secretary general who was

viet 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 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.

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.



# Russian husband again denied exit permission

By MICHAEL MURPHEY

6/5/82

Of the Chronicle

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 2½ 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 2½ 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. State Department official suggested the Soviets may be viewing her marriage as a marriage of convenience.

There have been cases in which American citizen 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 for them. Other times, the marriage is arranged for a fee.

Graham says she recognizes that there may be so appearance of that in this case because her husband who 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 2½ 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 tensions to thaw, perhaps as a result of strategic arms reduction talks scheduled to begin June 29.

Graham and Finkel represent an allegoric kind of innocence. Their politics, if they have an 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 reunited 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.