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File Folder USSR-PENTACOSTALS 1/4

FOIA

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ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
10581	CABLE	081707Z DEC 81 PAR 3/24/2011 F2006-114/9	6	12/8/1981	B6
10582	CABLE	291553Z DEC 81 R 3/24/2011 F2006-114/9	1	12/29/1981	B1
10576	MEMO	NANCE TO PRESIDENT REAGAN RE PENTECOSTALS R 3/24/2011 F2006-114/9	1	ND	B1
10577	MEMO	PIPES TO POINDEXTER RE SENATOR LEVIN LEGISLATION R 3/24/2011 F2006-114/9	2	ND	B1
10578	MEMO	SAME TEXT AS DOC #10576 R 3/24/2011 F2006-114/9	1	ND	B1
10583	CABLE	091022Z JAN 82 D 3/24/2011 F2006-114/9	1	1/9/1982	B6
10584	CABLE	081628Z JAN 82 R 3/24/2011 F2006-114/9	2	1/8/1982	B1
10585	CABLE	071840Z JAN 82 R 3/24/2011 F2006-114/9	2	1/7/1982	B1
10579	MEMO	CLARK TO PRESIDENT REAGAN RE PENTECOSTAL PROBLEM	2	1/14/1982	B1

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

B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]

B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]

B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]

B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]

B-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]

B-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]

B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]

B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
10586	MEMO	BREMER TO CLARK RE PRESIDENTIAL ACTION IN SUPPORT OF HUNGER-STRIKING PENTECOSTALISTS IN OUR EMBASSY IN MOSCOW <i>R 3/24/2011 F2006-114/9</i>	2	1/14/1982	B1
10587	CABLE	151615Z JAN 82 <i>R 3/24/2011 F2006-114/9</i>	2	1/15/1982	B1
10588	CABLE	221653Z JAN 82 <i>R 3/24/2011 F2006-114/9</i>	2	1/22/1983	B1
10589	CABLE	222349Z JAN 82 <i>R 3/24/2011 F2006-114/9</i>	2	1/22/1982	B1
10590	CABLE	231222Z JAN 82 <i>R 3/24/2011 F2006-114/9</i>	2	1/23/1982	B1
10591	CABLE	251653Z JAN 82 <i>R 3/24/2011 F2006-114/9</i>	3	1/25/1982	B1
10592	CABLE	251747Z JAN 82 <i>R 3/24/2011 F2006-114/9</i>	3	1/25/1982	B1
10593	CABLE	261134Z JAN 82 <i>R 3/24/2011 F2006-114/9</i>	2	1/26/1982	B1

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ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
10580	MEMO	CLARK TO PRESIDENT REAGAN RE BREZHNEV ANSWER TO YOUR LETTER IN SUPPORT OF PENTECOSTALISTS IN EMBASSY MOSCOW <i>R 3/24/2011 F2006-114/9</i>	1	ND	B1
10594	MEMO	BREMER TO CLARK RE BREZHNEV ANSWER TO PRESIDENT REAGAN IN SUPPORT OF PENTECOSTALISTS IN EMBASSY MOSCOW <i>R 3/24/2011 F2006-114/9</i>	1	1/22/1982	B1
10595	LETTER	UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION BREZHNEV TO PRESIDENT REAGAN <i>R 3/24/2011 F2006-114/9</i>	2	1/21/1982	B1

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PENTECOSTALS

10581

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EXDIS
MADRID FOR USDEL CSCE
E.O. 12065: RDS-3 11/30/01 (HARTMAN, ARTHUR A) OR-M
TAGS: SHUM, SREF, UR, US
SUBJECT: THE EMBASSY AND THE PENTECOSTALS: STATUS AND
- PROGNOSIS

1. CONFIDENTIAL, ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: AS THE FIVE VASHCHENKOS AND TWO CHMYKHALOVS APPROACH THREE AND ONE HALF YEARS OF RESIDENCE IN EMBASSY MOSCOW, THE FAMILIES SHOW SOME FLEXIBILITY IN THE STEPS. THEY ARE WILLING TO TAKE TO RESOLVE THEIR SITUATION. DIVISIONS AMONG THE SEVEN, BOTH BETWEEN THE TWO FAMILIES AND ALONG GENERATIONAL LINES, CONTINUE TO PREVENT THE PENTECOSTALS FROM AGREEING TO A UNIFIED PLAN FOR RESOLVING THEIR SITUATION. THE HEALTH OF THE SEVEN PENTECOSTALS IS GENERALLY GOOD,

FOIA(b)(6)

THE EMBASSY'S LIBERALIZED ACCESS POLICY TOWARD THE FAMILIES, INSTITUTED IN EARLY 1981, HAS BEEN A SUCCESS, AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS IN THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF THE PENTECOSTALS ARE BEING INVESTIGATED. THE EMBASSY HAS NOTED GROWING INTEREST IN THE PLIGHT OF THE TWO FAMILIES, PARTICULARLY IN BRITAIN. VASHCHENKO/CHMYKHALOV SUPPORTERS IN THE WEST HAVE ALSO BEGUN TO TARGET THEIR ACTIVITIES MORE DIRECTLY AGAINST THE SOVIETS IN SUPPORT OF THE FAMILIES' DESIRE TO EMIGRATE. END SUMMARY.

3. EMIGRATION PROSPECTS: AFTER NEARLY THREE AND ONE HALF YEARS OF RESIDENCE IN THE AMERICAN EMBASSY, THE VASHCHENKO AND CHMYKHALOV FAMILIES ARE BEGINNING TO SHOW NEW FLEXIBILITY IN ASSESSING THE CONDITIONS THEY WOULD ACCEPT IN ORDER TO OBTAIN SOVIET PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE TO THE WEST. NONE OF THE SEVEN PENTECOSTALS CONSIDERS REFUGE IN THE EMBASSY AN END IN ITSELF. ALL REMAIN ADAMANT THAT THEIR GOAL IS TO DEPART WITH FAMILY MEMBERS STILL IN CHERNOGORSK TO THE WEST, WHERE THEY CAN FREELY PRACTICE THEIR RELIGION. (THE VASHCHENKO FAMILY, IN FACT, HOPES TO RESETTLE IN ISRAEL, WHICH THEY, AS CHRISTIAN HEIRS TO THE JEWS, VIEW AS THEIR "PROMISED LAND." THE FAMILY RECOGNIZES, HOWEVER, THAT THEY WILL NEED TO STOP OVER FOR AN UNDETERMINED LENGTH OF TIME IN THE

UNITED STATES, AS IT IS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT THAT IS REPRESENTING THEIR CASE.) THE SEVEN STATE THAT THEY REMAIN HOPEFUL THAT A SOLUTION TO THEIR PROBLEM CAN BE FOUND, ALTHOUGH REPEATED SOVIET REFUSALS TO MEET THE CONDITIONS THE PENTECOSTALS WOULD WISH TO IMPOSE FOR THEIR DEPARTURE HAVE CAUSED THE TWO FAMILIES TO REASSESS THEIR POSITION.

4. BEFORE DECEMBER 1980, THE PENTECOSTALS INSISTED THAT THEY WOULD ONLY DEPART THE EMBASSY IF BOTH THEY AND MEMBERS OF THEIR IMMEDIATE FAMILY IN CHERNOGORSK, SIBERIA WERE ALLOWED TO EMIGRATE DIRECTLY FROM THE EMBASSY. ON DECEMBER 24, 1980, IN VIEW OF REPEATED SOVIET REFUSALS TO PERMIT SUCH A DEPARTURE, THE FAMILIES AGREED WITH A PLAN WHEREBY AMBASSADOR WATSON WOULD ASK THE SOVIETS TO ALLOW THE SEVEN IN THE EMBASSY TO LEAVE THE USSR WITH HIM WHEN HE RETURNED TO THE U.S. THE PENTECOSTALS HOPED THAT ONCE THEY WERE IN THE UNITED STATES, THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS IN CHERNOGORSK COULD JOIN THEM ON THE BASIS OF FAMILY REUNIFICATION. THE SOVIETS WERE NO MORE WILLING TO ACCEPT THIS APPROACH THAN THEY WERE THE FIRST ONE.

5. THE PENTECOSTALS HAVE FINALLY COME TO ACCEPT, WITH GREAT RELUCTANCE, THAT THE SOVIETS ARE UNLIKELY TO EVER AGREE TO ANY NEGOTIATED DEPARTURE OF THE SEVEN THAT INVOLVES THEIR DIRECT EMIGRATION FROM THE EMBASSY. THE VASHCHENKOS AND CHMYKHALOVS HAVE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO A PROPOSAL THAT WOULD PROVIDE FOR THE PRIOR EMIGRATION OF THEIR FAMILIES IN CHERNOGORSK AS AN ACT OF SOVIET GOOD FAITH. THE SEVEN WITHIN THE EMBASSY WOULD THEN RETURN TO CHERNOGORSK WITH ASSURANCES FROM THE SOVIETS THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE PROSECUTED AND THAT THEIR APPLICATIONS FOR EMIGRATION WOULD BE LOOKED UPON FAVORABLY. SUCH AN APPROACH WOULD MEET SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT OBJECTIONS THE SOVIETS HAVE PREVIOUSLY MADE: THE PENTECOSTALS WOULD MAKE APPLICATION FOR EXIT PERMISSION IN CHERNOGORSK IN ACCORDANCE WITH ESTABLISHED SOVIET LAWS AND PROCEDURES; NO PRECEDENT OF DIRECT EMIGRATION FROM A FOREIGN EMBASSY WOULD BE CREATED; THE SOVIETS HAVE GIVEN SOME ASSURANCES BEFORE. SOVIET OFFICIALS

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EXDIS
MADRID FOR USDEL CSCE
HAVE IN THE PAST TOLD HIGH-RANKING EMBASSY OFFICERS
THAT THE PENTECOSTALS WOULD NOT BE PROSECUTED FOR THEIR
RESIDENCE IN THE EMBASSY (SUCH ASSURANCES, HOWEVER,
LEAVE A NUMBER OF LOOPHOLES. THE PENTECOSTALS COULD
CONCEIVABLY BE PROSECUTED FOR NOT WORKING (PARASITISM),
ABANDONMENT OF CHILDREN, SLANDERING THE SOVIET STATE
OR ANY NUMBER OF OTHER CRIMES THE REGIME MIGHT WANT TO
DREAM UP AGAINST THEM.) THE SOVIETS HAVE NEVER GIVEN
ANY ASSURANCES THAT THE SEVEN WOULD BE ALLOWED TO EMIGRATE
AND IN FACT HAVE REFUSED TO MAKE SUCH A COMMITMENT.
HOWEVER, IN THE CASE OF ELIZA OVSEPYAN, WHO LIVED IN
THE EMBASSY WITH THE PENTECOSTALS FOR THREE MONTHS IN
1978, THE SOVIETS DID GRANT HER EXIT PERMISSION WITHIN
A FEW MONTHS OF HER DEPARTURE FROM THE EMBASSY. IT
MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO CONVINCING THE SOVIETS TO TAKE THAT
CASE AS A PRECEDENT.

6. IF THE SOVIETS WERE TO ACCEPT A PLAN SUCH AS
OUTLINED ABOVE, THEY WOULD STILL HAVE TO DEPART FROM
THEIR NORMAL PRACTICE. APART FROM PROMISING TO LOOK
FAVORABLY UPON THE EXIT PERMISSION APPLICATIONS OF
THE EMBASSY SEVEN, THE SOVIETS WOULD BE CALLED UPON
TO ALLOW THE FAMILIES IN CHERNOGORSK TO EMIGRATE
DESPITE THE FACT THAT THEY HAVE NO CLOSE RELATIVES
ABROAD. THE SOVIETS HAVE CONSISTENTLY REFUSED TO
ALLOW PERSONS TO EMIGRATE FOR RELIGIOUS REASONS,
MAINTAINING THERE IS AMPLE FREEDOM OF BELIEF IN THE
USSR. THEY ARE UNLIKELY TO EVER DO SO, BUT MIGHT
BE WILLING TO RECOGNIZE A FICTIONAL RELATIVE IN THE
UNITED STATES OR A VYZOV (INVITATION) FROM A FRIEND
AS GROUNDS FOR EMIGRATION.

7. DISCORD AND DIVISION: THE EMBASSY HAS NOT YET
BEEN ABLE TO PRESENT ANY PROPOSAL TO THE SOVIET
GOVERNMENT FOR THE EMIGRATION OF THE SEVEN BECAUSE
THE PENTECOSTALS, WHILE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE ON THE
APPROACH, DIFFER AMONG THEMSELVES ON SPECIFICS.
THE EMBASSY HAS INSISTED THAT THE SEVEN MUST AGREE
COMPLETELY AMONG THEMSELVES ON HOW FAR THE UNITED
STATES CAN GO IN REPRESENTING THEM AND MUST PRESENT
US WITH A SIGNED MANDATE. IT IS OUR CONTENTION THAT
THE SOVIETS LOOK UPON THE RESIDENCY OF THE PENTECOSTALS
WITHIN THE EMBASSY AS A POLITICAL PROBLEM, CALLING
FOR ONE SOLUTION. (IN OCTOBER 1980 THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS CONSULAR ADMINISTRATION, WHICH HANDLES

EMIGRATION MATTERS, TOLD THE EMBASSY THAT THE USA
DIVISION -- THE POLITICAL SIDE OF MFA -- WOULD HAVE
TO ANSWER INQUIRIES ABOUT THE PENTECOSTALS WHICH HAD
FORMERLY BEEN DIRECTED TO THE CONSULAR ADMINISTRATION
BECAUSE THE PENTECOSTAL MATTER HAD BECOME A POLITICAL
ISSUE.) THE VASHCHENKO FAMILY NONETHELESS PERSISTS
IN BELIEVING THAT THE SOVIETS SEE THE PENTECOSTALS
AS TWO DIFFERENT PROBLEMS: THE VASHCHENKO PROBLEM
AND THE CHMYKHALOV PROBLEM. THE VASHCHENKOS INSIST
THAT THEIR CASE FOR EMIGRATION IS BETTER. THEY HAD
VYZOVS FROM THE UNITED STATES IN HAND WHEN THEY CAME
TO THE EMBASSY ON JUNE 27, 1978. THE CHMYKHALOV
DID NOT. THE VASHCHENKOS ALSO ARGUE THAT AS THE
CHMYKHALOV BELONGED TO A REGISTERED CHURCH, AND
REGISTERED CHURCHES AGREE TO SUPPORT THE STATE,
THE SOVIETS WILL NEVER AGREE TO THE CHMYKHALOV'S
DEPARTURE AS IT WOULD CREATE A PRECEDENT FOR OTHER
REGISTERED BELIEVERS TO EMIGRATE. WE DO NOT BELIEVE
THAT ANY OF THESE ISSUES ARE SIGNIFICANT ENOUGH TO
CAUSE THE SOVIETS TO VIEW THE FAMILIES AS TWO DISTINCT
PROBLEMS. IN FACT, MANY OF THE ARGUMENTS SEEM TO
BE A COVER FOR THE FACT THAT THE FAMILIES DO NOT GET
ALONG WELL, AND DID NOT EVEN BEFORE THEY CAME TO THE
EMBASSY. THE TWO FAMILIES HAVE ASKED THAT THE EMBASSY
PRESENT SEPARATE AND SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT PROPOSALS ON
EACH OF THEIR BEHALFS. WHILE WE HAVE DECLINED TO DO
SO, WE HAVE PROMISED THE PENTECOSTALS THAT IF THE
SOVIETS INDICATED TO US A READINESS TO LET ANY ONE
OF THEM EMIGRATE, WE WILL RELAY THE MESSAGE AND LET
THE CONCERNED INDIVIDUAL(S) MAKE THE CHOICE.

8. THE MOST IMPORTANT DIVISION AMONG THE SEVEN IS
BETWEEN THE VASHCHENKO AND CHMYKHALOV FAMILIES.
TIMOFEI CHMYKHALOV, BECAUSE HE IS CLOSE IN AGE TO
THE THREE VASHCHENKO GIRLS AND IS PARTICULARLY FOND
OF ONE OF THEM, IS MORE OR LESS ACCEPTED BY THE
FIVE VASHCHENKOS. MARIA CHMYKHALOV IS NOT. THE
TWO FAMILIES CLOSELY GUARD THEIR IDENTITY AS
INDIVIDUALS AND GREATLY RESENT REFERENCES TO THEM
AS THE "SIBERIAN SEVEN." THEY ALSO REJECT ATTEMPTS
TO PORTRAY THEM AS SYMBOLS OF THOUSANDS OF OTHER
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EXDIS
MADRID FOR USDEL CSCE
CHRISTIANS WITHIN THE USSR -- MOST OF WHICH, THE
FAMILIES ARGUE, HAVE ACCOMMODATED THEMSELVES TO THE
SOVIET SYSTEM. THE EMBASSY HAS TO TAKE GREAT CARE
IN BRIEFING VISITORS AND INTERESTED PARTIES ON THE
SEPARATE IDENTITIES OF THE TWO FAMILIES. EACH
FAMILY CLOSELY WATCHES THE BEHAVIOR OF EMBASSY
OFFICERS AND GUESTS TO SEE ANY SIGN OF PARTIALITY
TOWARDS ONE FAMILY OR THE OTHER.

9. GENERATIONAL DIFFERENCES ARE BECOMING AS IMPORTANT
AS FAMILY DIVISIONS. MARIA CHMYKHALOV IS VERY QUIET
AND RETIRING. HER SON TIMOFEI, AS HE REACHES ADULTHOOD,
HAS BECOME MORE CERTAIN OF HIMSELF AND OUTSPOKEN.
PETER VASHCHENKO, WHO WAS UNDENIABLY THE SPOKESMAN
OF ALL SEVEN WHEN THEY FIRST CAME TO THE EMBASSY
THREE YEARS AGO, IS TODAY TOO IMPRACTICAL AND "OTHER
WORLDLY" FOR HIS THREE DAUGHTERS. THE THREE YOUNG
VASHCHENKOS AND TIMOFEI CHMYKHALOV HAVE LEARNED SOME
ENGLISH. THEIR PARENTS SPEAK NONE. THE YOUNGER
GENERATION, THEREFORE, HAS BECOME THE CENTER OF
ATTENTION FOR FOREIGN GUESTS AND THE PRESS. THIS
HAS PROMOTED THE SELF-CONFIDENCE OF THE YOUNGER FOUR,
AND HAS ENCOURAGED THEM TO THINK FOR THEMSELVES AND
ARGUE VOCIFEROUSLY ON OCCASION WITH THEIR PARENTS.
THE THREE OLDER PENTECOSTALS TEND TO BE MORE CONCERNED
ABOUT THEIR FAMILIES IN CHERNOGORSK. THEY HAVE ALSO
LEARNED PATIENCE FROM A LIFETIME OF SUFFERING AND
ARE MORE WILLING TO WAIT THE SOVIETS OUT, TO THE END
OF THEIR LIVES, IF NECESSARY. THE FOUR CHILDREN ARE
MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR OWN FUTURE AND LESS WILLING
TO SPEND THEIR LIVES WITHIN THE EMBASSY.

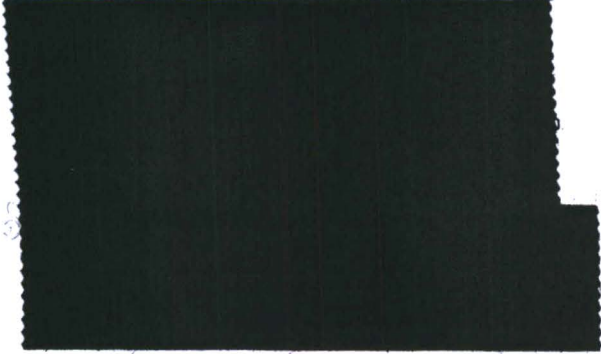


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EXDIS
MADRID FOR USDEL CSCE

BROADENED PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE COMPLEXITIES OF THIS CASE, AND PROMOTED PUBLIC INTEREST AND PUBLIC OPINION PRESSURE ON BEHALF OF THE PENTECOSTALS AGAINST THE SOVIETS. VIRTUALLY ALL VISITORS TO THE SEVEN ARE ALLOWED THROUGH AFTER BEING SECURITY SCREENED BY THE CONSULAR SECTION. THE TWO FAMILIES RECEIVE ONE PHONE CALL PER MONTH FROM SUPPORTERS IN THE WEST, AND MAKE AT LEAST WEEKLY PHONE CALLS TO RELATIVES IN CHERNOGORSK. ONE SPECIAL LONG-DISTANCE PHONE CALL PER DAY FOR FIVE DAYS IS PLANNED FOR CHRISTMAS WEEK SO THAT THE PENTECOSTALS MAY SPEAK WITH SEVERAL MAJOR ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED ON THEIR BEHALF.

15. FURTHER CHANGES IN EMBASSY POLICY TOWARDS THE FAMILIES ARE BEING CONSIDERED WITH AN EYE TO IMPROVING THEIR LIVING CONDITIONS AND ALLEVIATING STRAIN. A DECISION HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE TO MORE THAN DOUBLE THE SIZE OF THE VASHCHENKOS' AND CHMYKHALOV'S QUARTERS. THE TWO FAMILIES NOW LIVE, SLEEP AND EAT IN ONE ROOM. A LARGER ADJOINING ROOM WILL BE ADDED AS SOON AS NECESSARY MODIFICATIONS CAN BE COMPLETED. WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT GIVING THE SEVEN MORE PRIVACY AND A PLACE TO GET AWAY FROM ONE ANOTHER ON OCCASION WILL REDUCE TENSIONS. WE ARE ALSO INVESTIGATING WAYS TO PROVIDE THE PENTECOSTALS WITH USEFUL ACTIVITIES. THE SEVEN ARE ENERGETIC PEOPLE USED TO HARD WORK. BECAUSE THE EMBASSY MUST HIRE ALL LOCAL STAFF THROUGH A SOVIET GOVERNMENT AGENCY, AND EMPLOYING THE PENTECOSTALS IN VIOLATION OF SOVIET LAW WOULD LIKELY INVITE A SOVIET REFUSAL TO FILL OUR VACANCIES, WE ARE UNABLE TO OFFER THE TWO FAMILIES REGULAR EMPLOYMENT. THE PENTECOSTALS HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED, HOWEVER, TO PERFORM PRIVATE CHORES FOR EMBASSY STAFFERS - BABYSITTING, SEWING AND CLEANING. WE ARE SEEKING TO PROVIDE THE VASHCHENKOS AND CHMYKHALOV WITH MORE REGULAR "PRIVATE" WORK.

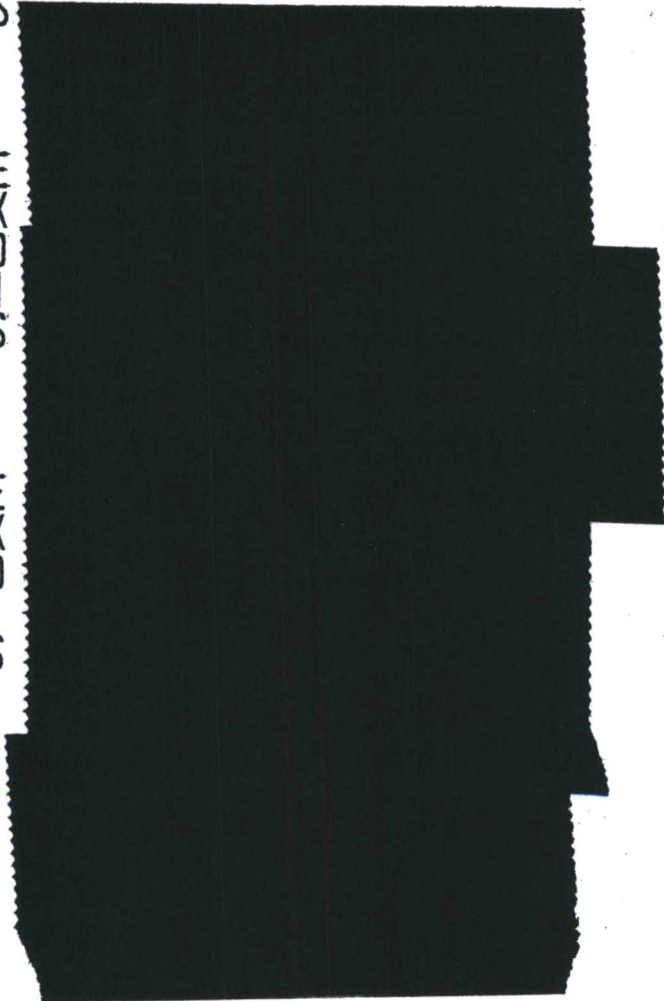
16. SUPPORTERS IN THE WEST: INTEREST IN THE PENTECOSTALS IN THE WEST, PARTICULARLY IN BRITAIN, HAS INCREASED NOTICEABLY IN THE PAST YEAR. WITHIN THE UNITED STATES, S. A. V. E. - THE SOCIETY FOR VASHCHENKO/CHMYKHALOV EMIGRATION - IS THE OLDEST
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14. EMBASSY POLICY: THE RELAXATION OF RESTRICTIONS ON ACCESS TO THE PENTECOSTALS IMPLEMENTED IN EARLY 1981 HAS HAD VERY POSITIVE RESULTS. THE INCREASED NUMBER OF VISITORS, BOTH FOREIGN RESIDENTS OF MOSCOW AND FROM ABROAD, HAS RAISED THE FAMILIES' MORALE,

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EXDIS
MADRID FOR USDEL CSCE
AND MOST ACTIVE GROUP. RELIGION IN COMMUNIST DOMINATED
AREAS HAS ALSO SHOWN PARTICULAR DEVOTION TO THE
PENTECOSTALS' CAUSE. PRESS INTEREST IN THE TWO FAMILIES
HAS REMAINED STRONG. CHRISTIANITY TODAY, THE LARGEST
CIRCULATION CHRISTIAN MAGAZINE IN THE UNITED STATES,
RECENTLY PUBLISHED AN ARTICLE ABOUT THE TWO FAMILIES,
AND PARADE MAGAZINE, WITH ONE OF THE LARGEST CIRCULA-
TIONS OF ANY U.S. WEEKLY, WILL BE PUBLISHING A STORY
IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

17. U.S. GROUPS DEDICATED TO THE CAUSE OF THE
PENTECOSTALS STILL RETAIN SOME SUSPICION OF THE U.S.
GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE TWO FAMILIES
BASED UPON THEIR FEELING THAT THE RESTRICTIONS
PREVIOUSLY IMPOSED ON ACCESS TO THE PENTECOSTALS
WERE MEANT TO FORCE THE SEVEN OUT INTO THE ARMS OF
THE SOVIET POLICE. THE PRESS FORMERLY PLACED MORE
BLAME ON THE EMBASSY FOR ITS TREATMENT OF THE FAMILIES
THAN ON THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT FOR REFUSING TO ALLOW
THEM TO EMIGRATE. SINCE ACCESS TO THE PENTECOSTALS
WAS LIBERALIZED AND THE FAMILIES' LIVING CONDITIONS
IMPROVED, THE PRESS HAS GENERALLY CREDITED THE
EMBASSY WITH SINCERE GOOD INTENTIONS TO HELP THE
SEVEN. NON-AMERICAN SUPPORTERS OF THE VASHCHENKOS
AND CHMYKHALOV, WHO FOR THE MOST PART BECAME INTERESTED
IN THE PLIGHT OF THE FAMILIES AFTER THE LIBERALIZATION
OF EMBASSY POLICY, TEND TO BE VERY SUPPORTIVE OF THE
U.S. GOVERNMENT POSITION AND HAVE ENERGETICALLY
DIRECTED THEIR EFFORTS TOWARD PUBLICIZING THE CASE
AND PRESSURING THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT FOR THE RELEASE
OF THE SEVEN. A GROUP ASSOCIATED WITH BUZZ MAGAZINE,
BRITAIN'S LARGEST CIRCULATION CHRISTIAN JOURNAL, HAS
VERY ADROITLY PIQUED MEDIA INTEREST IN THE PENTECOSTALS.
APART FROM ARTICLES IN BUZZ MAGAZINE ITSELF, MEMBERS
OF THE GROUP HAVE BEEN INTERVIEWED ON TELEVISION
TALK SHOWS, AND HAVE ARRANGED TV AND RADIO COVERAGE
OF DEMONSTRATIONS ON BEHALF OF THE SEVEN AND OF
SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS BY SUPPORTERS IN THE WEST OF
BIRTHDAYS OF INDIVIDUAL VASHCHENKOS OR CHMYKHALOV.
MANY OF THE BRITISH TELEVISION PROGRAMS ON THE
PENTECOSTALS HAVE BEEN REPLAYED IN CANADA, AUSTRALIA
AND NEW ZEALAND. EMBASSY MAIL REFLECTS THE GROWTH
OF INTEREST IN THE PENTECOSTALS IN THOSE COUNTRIES.

18. THE BUZZ GROUP HAS INITIATED A LETTER WRITING

CAMPAIGN DIRECTED AT THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN LONDON
APPEALING FOR THE RELEASE OF THE SEVEN. INTERESTED
PERSONS ARE ALSO ENCOURAGED TO WRITE THE FAMILIES
DIRECTLY THROUGH INTERNATIONAL MAIL, AND AS THE
SOVIETS OFTEN STOP MAIL ADDRESSED TO THE PENTECOSTALS,
BUZZ MAINTAINS A REGISTRY OF PRIVATE LETTERS WHICH
ARE FORWARDED THROUGH IT. A STICKER READING "THIS
LETTER HAS BEEN REGISTERED WITH BUZZ MAGAZINE AS A
TEST OF THE SOVIET MAIL SYSTEM" IS PLACED ON THE
CORRESPONDENCE. MOST OF THE MAIL REACHING THE FAMILIES
BEARS THIS STICKER, TESTIFYING TO ITS EFFECTIVENESS.

19. CONCLUSION: ACCOMMODATING THE PENTECOSTALS'
DESIRE TO EMIGRATE REMAINS AN INTRACTABLE PROBLEM.
THE ISSUE HAS LONG BEEN COMPLICATED BY THE FACT
THAT THE VASHCHENKOS AND CHMYKHALOV ARE AS
INFLEXIBLE AND UNREALISTIC AS THE SOVIETS ARE
UNYIELDING. WE ARE, HOWEVER, ENCOURAGED BY THE
PENTECOSTALS' WILLINGNESS TO SEEK A SOLUTION THAT
RECOGNIZES SOVIET CONCERNS AND THE GROWING WESTERN
PUBLIC PRESSURE AGAINST THE SOVIETS. THE SOVIETS
CLEARLY WILL NOT ALLOW THE PENTECOSTALS TO EMIGRATE
UNTIL THEY PERCEIVE THAT THE COSTS OF CONTAINING THEM
WITHIN THE EMBASSY ARE GREATER THAN THE COSTS OF
LETTING THEM GO. THE SHIFT IN PUBLIC CONCERN AWAY FROM
EMBASSY TREATMENT OF THE TWO FAMILIES TO THE SOVIET
REFUSAL TO LET THEM EMIGRATE HAS PROVIDED THE USSR WITH
A SMALL INCENTIVE, HITHERTO LACKING, TO RESOLVE THIS
ISSUE. OF MUCH GREATER IMPORTANCE ARE POLITICAL
FACTORS. THE PENTECOSTALS MUST AGREE TO A SETTLEMENT
THAT REDUCES THE COSTS TO SOVIET PRESTIGE AND MAKES
IT EASIER FOR THE AUTHORITIES TO SAY "YES." THROUGH
IT ALL, WE MUST CONTINUE TO MAKE CLEAR TO THE SOVIETS
BT

EXDIS

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
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PAGE 01
EOB624

MOSCOW 6758
AN009324

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9745
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD 5225
AMEMBASSY MADRID 1344

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 06 OF 06 MOSCOW 16758

EXDIS
MADRID FOR USDEL CSCE
THROUGH FREQUENT HIGH-LEVEL EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
IN THIS CASE THAT IT IS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN OUR
BILATERAL RELATIONS. AND WE MUST CONTINUE TO MAKE
IT CLEAR TO THE PENTECOSTALS THAT THEY ARE WELCOME TO
CONTINUE TO STAY WITH US.

HARTMAN
BT

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UNCLASSIFIED

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
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PAGE 01 SECSTATE WASHDC 2004 DTG: 291958Z DEC 81 PSN: 012068
EOB454 AN003432 TOR: 363/2013Z CSN: HCES29

EMBASSY OFFICERS, INCLUDING THE EMBASSY DOCTOR, ARE IN
CONSTANT CONTACT WITH MRS. VASHCHENKO AND ARE
MONITORING HER CONDITION. END TEXT. STOESSEL
BT

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DE RUEHC #2004 3632007
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE 9620

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD IMMEDIATE 3560

UNCLAS STATE 342004

E.O. 12065: NA

TAGS: SREF, SHUM, UR

SUBJECT: PENTECOSTAL HUNGER STRIKE PRESS GUIDANCE

Pentecostals.

1. FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED FOR USE OF
DEPT SPOKESMAN DECEMBER 28: BEGIN TEXT.

2. Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE REPORTS THAT ONE
OF THE SOVIET PENTECOSTALISTS WHO TOOK REFUGE IN THE
U.S. EMBASSY IN MOSCOW HAS BEGUN A HUNGER STRIKE?
A: AUGUSTINA VASHCHENKO, ONE OF SEVEN PENTECOSTALS NOW
LIVING AT THE U.S. EMBASSY, HAS INFORMED EMBASSY
OFFICERS THAT SHE IS ON A HUNGER STRIKE.

3. Q: WHAT DOES MRS. VASHCHENKO HOPE TO ACHIEVE?
A: HER IMMEDIATE GOAL IS NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR, BUT HER
LONG TERM GOAL IS TO GAIN PERMISSION FROM THE SOVIET
AUTHORITIES FOR HERSELF AND HER FAMILY TO LEAVE THE
SOVIET UNION.

4. Q: WHAT CAN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DO TO ASSIST MRS.
VASHCHENKO?
A: WE HAVE URGED THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES FOR 3 1/2
YEARS TO ALLOW THE PENTECOSTALISTS AND THEIR FAMILIES
TO LEAVE THE SOVIET UNION, BUT THE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN

UNWILLING TO GUARANTEE THEIR EMIGRATION FROM THE SOVIET
UNION WHILE THEY REMAIN IN THE EMBASSY. DURING THIS
TIME, WE HAVE PROVIDED THE FAMILY MEMBERS AT THE
EMBASSY WITH ROOM AND BOARD, AND TOLD THEM THEY MAY
STAY AS LONG AS THEY WISH. WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO
WHATEVER POSSIBLE TO PERSUADE THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES TO
GRANT THEM PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE, BUT REGRETTABLY THE
DECISION IS ENTIRELY IN SOVIET HANDS.

5. Q: WHAT WILL THE EMBASSY DO IF MRS. VASHCHENKO
CONTINUES HER STRIKE TO THE POINT WHERE HER LIFE IS IN
DANGER?
A: I DON'T THINK IT IS WISE TO SPECULATE ON SUCH
MATTERS. WE CERTAINLY HOPE THE SITUATION WILL NOT
REACH THE POINT WHERE HER LIFE IS THREATENED. HOWEVER,

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10582

8

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
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PAGE 01
EOB261

MOSCOW 7557
AN003379

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TOR: 363/1559Z CSN: HCE422

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O 291553Z DEC 81
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

Pentecostals

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0345

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD 5483

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ MOSCOW 17557

DEPT FOR EUR/SOV
E. O. 12065: GDS 12/29/87 (MCCALL, SHERROD) OR-M
TAGS: SREF, UR, US
SUBJECT: PENTECOSTAL HUNGER STRIKE - DECEMBER 29, 1981
REF: (A) MOSCOW 17462 (B) MOSCOW 17514

1. (C) THE PENTECOSTALS CLAIM TO BE CONTINUING THEIR HUNGER STRIKE AND THERE HAVE BEEN FEW CHANGES IN THE SITUATION. NO PRESS INTEREST WAS EXPRESSED IN THE MATTER ON DECEMBER 29. NEITHER AUGUSTINA NOR LIDIA ARE EXHIBITING ANY ILL EFFECTS FROM FASTING AND BOTH CONTINUE TO REMAIN ACTIVE. DR. KENT HILL OF SEATTLE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY, A LONG-TIME FRIEND OF THE VASHCHENKOS, HAS NOT SO FAR SUCCEEDED IN PERSUADING AUGUSTINA AND LIDIA TO ABANDON THEIR STRIKE, AND HAS INFORMED US THAT LILIA, THE YOUNGEST VASHCHENKO DAUGHTER, IS HINTING SHE MAY JOIN HER MOTHER AND SISTER. DR. HILL HAS PROMISED TO CONTINUE HIS EFFORTS.
HARTMAN
BT

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NLRRF06-114/9#10582

BY KML NARA DATE 4/7/2011

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

December 29, 1981

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR JAMES W. NANCE

FROM: RICHARD PIPES *RP*

SUBJECT: Pentecostals

Attached at Tab I is a memorandum from you to the President which responds to John Poindexter's request to me (Tab II) regarding the Pentecostals in Embassy Moscow and what is being done about them. I have included all the information available in the attached memorandum. ~~(C)~~

RECOMMENDATIONThat you forward the memorandum at Tab I to the President. ~~(U)~~

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

cc: John Poindexter

Attachments:

Tab I Memorandum to the President
 Tab II John Poindexter's note of December 28

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Review December 29, 1987.

DECLASSIFIED
 White House Guidelines, August 20, 1997
 By *CS* NARA, Date *7/29/02*

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: JAMES W. NANCE
SUBJECT: Pentecostals

Two of the seven Pentecostals in the U.S. Embassy in Moscow have said that they are on a hunger strike but there is some skepticism whether they are serious about it. (C)

Senator Levin introduced a bill -- not yet acted upon either in Committee or on the floor -- to grant these people "permanent resident alien status" while they are living on Embassy grounds. State objects to this formulation because it postulates extraterritorial status for the Embassy which is juridically incorrect. (C)

State is now working on an improved version of the Levin bill. Further there is a proposal, advocated by Max Kampelman and the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, that the Soviet Government grant exit visas to the relatives of the Pentecostals who are living outside. This would be a token that it indeed intends to allow the seven Pentecostals inside the Embassy to emigrate once they had left Embassy grounds, and might persuade them to do so. (C)

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NLRRF06-114/9 #10576

BY KAL NARA DATE 4/7/2011

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Review December 29, 1987.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

12/28

Dick Pipes,

We need a memo to
President informing him
of hunger strike of Pentecostals
in Embassy Moscow. Cover
the status of the legislation
that was on the Dillard what
we did about it. What was
purpose of legislation? What
was state position?
Any ideas for a solution?

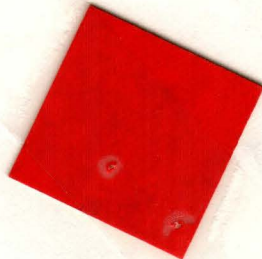
John

2 hour sat.

Lexii Bill
amended
has acted
Lexii up
by had movement
under letter.

State will not support yet - would require legislation to
justify Lexii. Grants program. resident alien status, ~~with~~ while
in out. Because all subject to OT law. Extra-territorial
status which would make it harder.

Kamp & Urbany are asking - Chrysoth will be able to
complete.



TO: DICK PIPES
FROM: ADM. POINDEXTER

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NLRRFO6-114/9 #10577

BY KML NARA DATE 4/7/2011

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

December 29, 1981

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR JAMES W. NANCE

FROM: RICHARD PIPES *RP*

SUBJECT: Pentecostals

Attached at Tab I is a memorandum from you to the President which responds to John Poindexter's request to me (Tab II) regarding the Pentecostals in Embassy Moscow and what is being done about them. I have included all the information available in the attached memorandum. (C)

RECOMMENDATION

That you forward the memorandum at Tab I to the President. (U)

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

cc: John Poindexter

Attachments:

- Tab I Memorandum to the President
- Tab II John Poindexter's note of December 28

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Review December 29, 1987.

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White House Guidelines, August 29, 1997
By *CW* NARA, Date *7/29/02*

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON~~CONFIDENTIAL~~INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: JAMES W. NANCE

SUBJECT: Pentecostals

Two of the seven Pentecostals in the U.S. Embassy in Moscow have said that they are on a hunger strike but there is some skepticism whether they are serious about it. (C)

Senator Levin introduced a bill -- not yet acted upon either in Committee or on the floor -- to grant these people "permanent resident alien status" while they are living on Embassy grounds. State objects to this formulation because it postulates extraterritorial status for the Embassy which is juridically incorrect. (C)

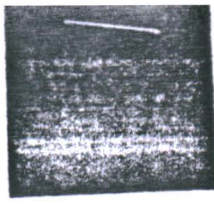
State is now working on an improved version of the Levin bill. Further, there is a proposal, advocated by Max Kampelman and the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, that the Soviet Government grant exit visas to the relatives of the Pentecostals who are living outside. This would be a token that it indeed intends to allow the seven Pentecostals inside the Embassy to emigrate once they had left Embassy grounds, and might persuade them to do so. (C)

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NLRRF06-114/9 #10578

BY KML NARA DATE 4/7/2011~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Review December 29, 1987.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

12/28

Dick Pipes,

We need a memo to
President informing him
of hunger strike of Pentecostals
in Embassy Moscow. Cover
the status of the legislation
that was on the Hill and what
we did about it. What was
purpose of legislation? What
was state position?
Any ideas for a solution?

John

Dick Pipes -
FYI - most
EUR 16 ✓

PRESS GUIDANCE

6 January 1982

Vashchenko Hunger Strike

Q: Do you have any comment on the reports that the Soviet Pentecostals who took refuge in the U.S. Embassy have begun a hunger strike?

(age 52)

A: Augustina Vashchenko/and her 30 year-old daughter Lidiya have informed Embassy officers that they are on a hunger strike. Mrs. Vashchenko began her strike December 25, and her daughter joined her three days later. None of the other five Pentecostal refugeees in the Embassy has joined the strike. The U.S. Embassy doctor is continuously monitoring the health of Mrs. Vashchenko and Lidiya. To the best of our knowledge, which is based on reports from the Embassy doctor, they are not so far showing severe effects of their fast.

Q: What does Mrs. Vashchenko hope to achieve?

A: She has told embassy officers that she hopes to compel the Soviets to allow her and all or part of her family to leave the Soviet Union.

Q: What can the U.S. government do to help the Pentecostals?

A: We have for 3 1/2 years persistently urged the Soviet authorities to allow the Pentecostals and their families to leave the Soviet Union. To date, the Soviets have been unwilling to guarantee the families' emigration so long as

they remain inside the Embassy. During this time, the U.S. government has provided the family members at the Embassy with room and board, and they have been told that they may stay as long as they wish. We will continue to take every opportunity to persuade the Soviets to grant them permission to emigrate, but regrettably the decision is entirely in Soviet hands.

Q: What will the Embassy do if Mrs. Vashchenko continues her strike to the point where her life is threatened?

A: It's not wise to speculate on such matters. We certainly hope the situation will not reach the point where her life is in danger. However, the Embassy doctor is in constant contact with Mrs. Vashchenko and is monitoring her condition.

Q: Why has the State Department not made the public aware of this fast before?

A: We have not kept it secret. It was known to the U.S. press corps in Moscow who are free to meet with or interview the two families. The Vashchenko's friends and supporters in the United States have known of the idea of the hunger strike since before Christmas and have been in continuing daily contact with the Vashchenkos. Neither the press nor their friends chose to publicize the fast until now. We do not feel that it is our role to act as publicist or spokesman for the families, but to provide them with our full support while they remain in our Embassy and to pursue their cause officially with the Soviet government.

drafted EUR/SOV: WWarren ²⁵
1/6/82 ext. 28720
cleared EUR/SOV: AEDarbyshire ^{AD}
EUR/SOV: RECombs ^{by}
EUR: JDScanlan ¹⁷

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10584 20
Lehekosta
pentecostals

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 0249 DTG: 081628Z JAN 82 PSN: 023933
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AUGUSTINA VASHCHENKO ON JANUARY 8 AGAIN SHOWED STABILIZATION OF THEIR WEIGHT FOR THE MOMENT. AUGUSTINA CONTINUES TO DRINK APPLE JUICE. LIDIA HAS RESISTED TAKING ANY SWEETENER WITH HER TEA. THE DOCTOR CLEARLY EXPLAINED TO HER THE IMPORTANCE OF AT LEAST MINIMAL CARBOHYDRATE INTAKE TO AVOID DAMAGING THE BODY'S CHEMISTRY, AND LIDIA INDICATED SHE MAY PUT SOME HONEY IN HER DRINK.

OP IMMED
STU3233
DE RUEHMO #0249/01 0081630
O 081628Z JAN 82
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0583

INFO AMCONSUL Leningrad 5587

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 00249

DEPT FOR EUR/SOV
ALSO EUR/RPM PASS AMBASSADOR KEMPELMAN
E.O. 12065: GDS 1/8/88 (STRUBLE, JAMES C.) OR-V
TAGS: SREF, SHUM, US, UR
SUBJECT: PENTECOSTAL HUNGER STRIKE - JANUARY 8, 1982
REF: (A) MOSCOW 197 (B) STATE 1806

5. LYNN BUZZARD AND KENT HILL SPOKE WITH CONSOFF JANUARY 8 ABOUT THEIR PLAN (REF B) TO PERSUADE THE VASHCHENKOS THAT THE STRIKE HAS ACHIEVED "POSITIVE" RESULTS AND THAT THEY WILL COME TO MOSCOW TO CONTACT SOVIET OFFICIALS IF THE STRIKERS WILL AT LEAST DECLARE A MORATORIUM ON THE FAST. CONSOFF ASSURED BUZZARD/HILL THAT THE EMBASSY COULD ARRANGE AT LEAST SOME SORT OF APPOINTMENT WITH SOVIET LEGAL AND PROBABLY RELIGIOUS FIGURES, BUT ONLY AT A LOW AND NONINFLUENTIAL LEVEL. CONSOFF ALSO STATED THAT THE PAIR MIGHT BE RECEIVED IF THEY SHOWED UP AT SOME SOVIET OFFICE (FOR EXAMPLE, THE ALL-UNION OVIR) UNANNOUNCED, BUT THAT THAT WAS AN UNCERTAIN PROPOSITION. BUZZARD/HILL SPOKE WITH THE VASHCHENKOS AND APPARENTLY THEN ASKED TO SPEAK ONCE AGAIN WITH CONSOFF, BUT THE CALL WAS CUT OFF. EMBASSY EXPECTS THE PAIR TO BRIEF THE DEPARTMENT AND WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION ON THE VASHCHENKO RESPONSE TO THE PROPOSAL.

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~, ENTIRE TEXT.

6. THE EMBASSY SEPARATELY CONTACTED THE REV. WILLIAM VILLAUME, A FORMER EMBASSY CHAPLAIN RESPECTED BY THE PENTECOSTALS, AND OLIN ROBISON OF MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE. VILLAUME SUGGESTED HE SEND A TELEX TO THE VASHCHENKOS

2. SUMMARY: TWO CODELS WERE BRIEFED ON THE PENTECOSTAL SITUATION JANUARY 7 AND 8. ONE GROUP OF CONGRESSMEN HAS VISITED THE PENTECOSTALS AND A SECOND CODEL PLANS TO, PROBABLY JANUARY 9. AUGUSTINA AND LIDIA VASHCHENKO'S MEDICAL CONDITION REMAINS STABLE. IN A JANUARY 8 TELCON, PENTECOSTAL SUPPORTERS LYNN BUZZARD AND KENT HILL INDICATED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO COME TO THE SOVIET UNION IF IT WOULD HELP PERSUADE THE VASHCHENKOS TO AT LEAST POSTPONE THE HUNGER STRIKE. THE EMBASSY SEPARATELY CONTACTED OLIN ROBISON AND REV. WILLIAM VILLAUME TO REQUEST THEIR ASSISTANCE IN DISSUADING THE VASHCHENKOS FROM THEIR FAST. ALL THREE MAJOR TELEVISION NETWORKS TODAY FILMED NEWSTORIES ON THE VASHCHENKOS (SUBJECT OF SEPTEL). END SUMMARY.

FIRST URGING THEM TO EAT WITHOUT CHALLENGING THEIR JUDGMENT IN DECLARING A HUNGER STRIKE. HE BELIEVES IT WOULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE THAN ARGUING WITH THE STRIKERS BY PHONE, BUT HE WILL CALL IF HIS TELEX HAS NO EFFECT.

3. CODELS GEJDENSON/SHANNON/SMITH AND LEVITAS/SHUSTER WERE BRIEFED ON THE PENTECOSTAL SITUATION BY A CONSULAR OFFICER ON JANUARY 7 AND JANUARY 8, RESPECTIVELY. THE FORMER GROUP HAS A RELATIVELY LESSER DEGREE OF BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE ON THE CASE, AND IN THEIR MEETING WITH THE FAMILIES SPOKE GENERALLY OF THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE GOAL OF THE PENTECOSTALS' EMIGRATION FROM THE SOVIET UNION. CONGRESSMAN SMITH HAS LEFT A BIBLE FOR THE FAMILIES. THE LEVITAS/SHUSTER CODEL WILL MEET WITH THE FAMILIES THE MORNING OF JANUARY 9. THEY WILL PRESENT THE FAMILIES WITH AN ADVANCE COPY OF THE PARADE MAGAZINE ARTICLE WRITTEN BY MIKE SATCHELL, WITH THE SPECIFIC AIM OF ATTEMPTING TO CONVINCE THEM THAT THE GOAL OF BROAD PUBLICITY AND GREAT PUBLIC INTEREST HAS BEEN ATTAINED AND THAT THE HUNGER STRIKE SHOULD CEASE.

7. DR. ROBISON INFORMED DCM ZIMMERMANN THAT HE WOULD GIVE CONSIDERABLE THOUGHT TO HOW BEST TO APPROACH THE VASHCHENKOS ON THE HUNGER STRIKE: HE BELIEVES IT WOULD BE BEST TO DO SO ON THE BASIS OF RELIGION. DR. ROBISON ALSO OFFERED TO COME TO MOSCOW IF IT MIGHT PROVE BT

4. THE EMBASSY DOCTOR'S EXAMINATION OF LIDIA AND

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NLRRF06-114/9 #10584

BY KML NARA DATE 4/7/2011

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21

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0584

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD 5588

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 00249

HELPFUL. EMBASSY DOES NOT INTEND TO REQUEST THIS OF
DR. ROBISON UNLESS THE VASHCHENKOS INDICATE THEY WILL
END OR SUSPEND THE FAST SHOULD HE VISIT.

HARTMAN

BT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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10585

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 0196 DTG: 071840Z JAN 82 PSN: 023814
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/001 A2

TEXT IS AS FOLLOWS: BEGIN TEXT: THE PENTECOSTALS WITHIN OUR EMBASSY HAVE ASSURED US THAT IF THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS IN CHERNOGORSK ARE FIRST ALLOWED TO EMIGRATE ACCORDING TO THE PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED BY SOVIET LAW, AND IF THE SEVEN ARE GIVEN ASSURANCES THAT THEY WILL NOT FACE PROSECUTION AND THAT THEIR APPLICATIONS FOR EMIGRATION WILL BE FAVORABLY PROCESSED, THEY WILL LEAVE THE EMBASSY. END TEXT.

EXDIS

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0548

INFO AMCONSUL Leningrad IMMEDIATE 5573

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 00196

EXDIS

EXDIS
DEPT FOR EUR/SOV AND EUR/RPM
EUR/RPM PLEASE PASS TO AMB. KAMPELMAN
E.O. 12065: RDS-3 1/7/02 (ZIMMERMANN, WARREN) OR-M
TAGS: SREF, SHUM, UR, US
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE TO SOVIETS ON PENTECOSTALS'
- EMIGRATION/HUNGER STRIKE
REF: MOSCOW 0193

EXDIS

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - ENTIRE TEXT).
-
2. SUMMARY: DCM ZIMMERMANN TODAY CALLED ON MFA USA DIVISION ACTING CHIEF MYSHKOV TO BOTH PROPOSE A LONG-TERM SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF THE PENTECOSTALS' EMIGRATION AND TO REQUEST SOVIET EMERGENCY AUTHORIZATION TO MEDICALLY EVACUATE AUGUSTINA AND LIDIA VASHCHENKO TO A WESTERN COUNTRY IN THE EVENT THEIR CONDITION SHOULD BECOME SERIOUS. MYSHKOV GAVE NO HOPE THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD AGREE TO A MEDICAL EVACUATION, ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT REJECT IT ON THE SPOT. HE SHOWED SOME INTEREST IN THE PROPOSED LONG-TERM SOLUTION: THE EMIGRATION OF THE PENTECOSTALS' FAMILY MEMBERS FROM CHERNOGORSK TO BE FOLLOWED BY THE DEPARTURE OF THE SEVEN IN THE EMBASSY TO APPLY FOR EXIT PERMISSION IN THEIR LEGAL PLACE OF RESIDENCE.
END SUMMARY.
-

3. THIS AFTERNOON (JANUARY 7) DCM MADE DEMARCHE ON PENTECOSTAL ISSUE TO MYSHKOV, ACTING CHIEF OF MFA USA DIVISION. FOLLOWING INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS DESIGNED TO ESTABLISH THAT THIS WAS AS MUCH A SOVIET AS A U.S. PROBLEM AND TO ASSURE MYSHKOV THAT WE TOOK SERIOUSLY THE SOVIET INSISTENCE THAT THE SEVEN COULD EMIGRATE ONLY FROM CHERNOGORSK, DCM SAID THAT THERE WERE NOW TWO ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM: A BASIC ASPECT AND AN EMERGENCY ASPECT. TAKING THE BASIC ASPECT FIRST, HE SAID THAT THERE WAS A NEW DEVELOPMENT WHICH OFFERED A COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF THE SEVEN: AFTER MANY MONTHS OF INTERNAL DISCUSSIONS, THE SEVEN PENTECOSTALS HAD AGREED TO THE EMBASSY'S OUTLINING TO THE SOVIETS A NEW SUGGESTION. THE DCM HANDED MYSHKOV THE TEXT OF THE SUGGESTION AS A NON-PAPER. THE

4. THE DCM SAID THAT SUCH AN APPROACH WOULD PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE SOLUTION FOR ALL CONCERNED. WITH THE FAMILY MEMBERS IN THE U.S., THE SOVIETS COULD OFFER EMIGRATION TO THE SEVEN ON THE BASIS OF FAMILY REUNIFICATION. THE DCM NOTED A 1978 PRECEDENT FOR THIS: AN ARMENIAN WOMAN (ELIZA OVSEPYAN) WHO HAD BEEN PERSUADED TO LEAVE THE EMBASSY AFTER THREE MONTHS ON RECEIVING ASSURANCES FROM THE SOVIETS THAT HER APPLICATION FOR EMIGRATION WOULD BE LOOKED UPON FAVORABLY; SEVERAL WEEKS LATER SHE DID RECEIVE PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE.

5. THE DCM THEN TURNED TO THE EMERGENCY ASPECT OF THE PROBLEM. HE DESCRIBED THE HUNGER STRIKE BY AUGUSTINA AND LIDIA VASHCHENKO AND SAID THAT THE EMBASSY IS NOW PERSUADED THAT THE TWO ARE PREPARED TO DIE. EMBASSY OFFICERS, THE FAMILY'S FRIENDS ABROAD, AND OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS IN THE EMBASSY HAD FAILED TO DISSUADE AUGUSTINA AND LIDIA. THE DCM REMINDED MYSHKOV OF THE TREMENDOUS PUBLICITY IN THE WEST THAT WOULD RESULT IF THE TWO DIED, AND THE INEVITABLE RESPONSIBILITY THAT WOULD BE ASSIGNED TO THE SOVIET UNION. THE DCM SAID THERE SEEMED TO BE ONLY ONE SOLUTION THAT THE TWO WOULD ACCEPT: THEIR MEDICAL EVACUATION TO A CITY OUTSIDE THE SOVIET UNION, FOR EXAMPLE, HELSINKI. HE ASKED MYSHKOV TO GIVE URGENT ATTENTION TO THIS EMERGENCY SOLUTION AS WELL AS TO THE LONGER TERM PROBLEM OF THE EMIGRATION OF ALL THE FAMILY MEMBERS.

6. IN PROVIDING A PROVISIONAL RESPONSE, MYSHKOV SAID IT WAS NOT HELPFUL TO REFER TO THIS AS A
BT

DECLASSIFIED

NLRR F06-114/9 # 10585

BY KML NARA DATE 4/7/2011

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
MESSAGE CENTER

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 0196 DTG: 071840Z JAN 82 PSN: 023815
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O 071840Z JAN 82
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INFO AMCONSUL Leningrad IMMEDIATE 5574

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 00196

EXDIS

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SOVIET PROBLEM OR TO DESCRIBE THE BAD PUBLICITY THAT WOULD REDOUND ON THE SOVIETS. HE SAID THE HUNGER STRIKE WAS CERTAINLY NOT A HELPFUL WAY TO RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM; HE CALLED IT A FORM OF BLACKMAIL. HE REITERATED THE STANDARD SOVIET REPLY - WHICH THE DCM HAD ALREADY ANTICIPATED IN HIS PRELIMINARY COMMENTS - THAT THE PROBLEM COULD BE RESOLVED ONLY IF THE SEVEN RETURNED TO CHERNOGORSK. HE SHOWED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN THE SITUATION OF THE FAMILY MEMBERS IN CHERNOGORSK, AND ASKED IF THEY HAD APPLIED FOR EMIGRATION VISAS. THE DCM RESPONDED THAT THE FAMILY MEMBERS HAD INDEED SOUGHT EMIGRATION PERMISSION, AND HE CATALOGUED IN DETAIL THE OBSTACLES AND FRUSTRATIONS THEY HAD ENCOUNTERED IN TRYING TO GET IT. HE ADDED THAT MARIA CHMYKHALOV'S HUSBAND AND SON HAD BEEN PERMITTED TO TRAVEL TO MOSCOW YESTERDAY, BUT HAD SIMPLY BEEN TOLD AT THE ALL-UNION OVIR THAT THEY HAD TO RETURN TO CHERNOGORSK TO APPLY FOR THE VISAS. MYSHKOV APPEARED TO BE UNAWARE OF THIS DEVELOPMENT. THE DCM EMPHASIZED THAT FAILURE BY SOVIET AUTHORITIES TO ALLOW THE FAMILY MEMBERS IN CHERNOGORSK TO EMIGRATE HAD GREATLY STRENGTHENED THE SEVEN'S RELUCTANCE TO RETURN TO CHERNOGORSK THEMSELVES.

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7. IN RESPONSE TO MYSHKOV'S COMMENTS ABOUT BLACKMAIL, THE DCM ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE HUNGER STRIKE WAS INDEED INTENDED AS A FORM OF PRESSURE ON THE U.S. AND SOVIET GOVERNMENTS. WE HAD NOT SUPPORTED IT, INDEED WE HAD TRIED TO PREVENT IT AND WE ARE STILL TRYING TO STOP IT. BUT MYSHKOV HAD TO UNDERSTAND THAT IT WAS AN OBJECTIVE REALITY THAT HAD TO BE DEALT WITH ON AN URGENT BASIS. THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT COMPROMISE ANY OF ITS LAWS, REGULATIONS, OR PRACTICES IF IT AUTHORIZED A MEDICAL EVACUATION; THIS WOULD BE A SIMPLE HUMANITARIAN ACT. MYSHKOV GAVE NO INDICATION OF INTEREST IN THE MEDICAL EVACUATION SOLUTION, BUT HE DID NOT REJECT IT ON THE SPOT. HE DID SEEM TO SHOW SOME INTEREST IN THE LONGER-TERM SOLUTION, AND HE AGREED TO TAKE THE WHOLE COMPLEX OF ISSUES UNDER CONSIDERATION.

HARTMAN

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

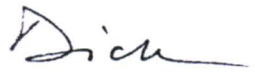
PIPES / FBI
CO / file Pentecostals
0 RP 29

January 14, 1982

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MR. PRESIDENT:

Please note the issue of timing raised on the top of page 2. Should you wish to act on this tonight, please have an usher return the memo in the enclosed envelope. Thank you.



Richard G. Darman

All signals get
RR

Leahin
Pipes

MEMORANDUM

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SYSTEM II

90012

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

January 14, 1982

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: WILLIAM P. CLARK *wpc*
SUBJECT: Pentecostal Problem

The Secretary of State has recommended that direct Presidential action, in the form of a message from you to President Brezhnev (Tab A) on behalf of the two Pentecostialists on a hunger strike in our Moscow Embassy, may be our only remaining chance to bring the fast to an end. Our fears for the health and ultimately the lives of these two Christian women, Mrs. Augustina Vashchenko and her daughter, Lidiya, have sharpened as it has become clear that neither we nor their many other supporters in this country can persuade them to end their hunger strike.

Mrs. Vashchenko and Lidiya, who have been living in refuge in our Embassy in Moscow for the last three and a half years with five other Pentecostialists, continue their hunger strike in hopes of gaining Soviet permission to emigrate. The women commenced fasting on the 27th of December, taking only liquids for sustenance. The Embassy reports that the women have lost some weight, but are not yet in serious condition. The women appear determined to maintain their fast until they and their families are permitted to leave the Soviet Union -- a solution they continue to believe the U.S. Government can "force" the Soviet Union to grant them.

While we have no guarantee that your intervention will be responded to favorably by the Soviets, the approach outlined in the draft message offers the Soviets a face-saving way out of this tragic problem if they have any interest in this at all. We, therefore, feel that this last attempt to work through direct diplomatic channels is worth trying and should be done now.

It will be essential that your message not be publicized. If the Soviets do not take prompt steps to act on your proposal, however, we will want to consider public statements and a media campaign in support of the Pentecostialists -- steps which are unlikely to bring positive action from the Soviets but would demonstrate your continuing concerns.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Review 1/14/88

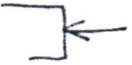
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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NLRR F06-114/9 # 10579

BY KNL NARA DATE 11/28/11

Former President Carter has been requested to call the Pentecostalists in our Embassy by their friends in this country. Mr. Carter has indicated he intends no publicity, but may not be able to resist because of the drama of his efforts to dissuade the two women from continuing their hunger strike. This call is scheduled for the morning (EST) of the 15th. Should this become known before you have taken direct action, it will increase our problems domestically.



RECOMMENDATION

The State Department and the NSC recommend you approve the attached letter for dispatch to Brezhnev.

Approve ARR

Disapprove _____

A

PROPOSED TEXT OF PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE TO BREZHNEV

Dear Mr. President:

I wish to direct your attention on an urgent basis to the plight of seven Soviet Pentecostalists who have been living in our Embassy in Moscow since seeking refuge there in June, 1978. These people seek permission from Soviet authorities for themselves and their families to emigrate from the Soviet Union according to the principles of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. We have repeatedly approached the Soviet Government on behalf of Petr and Augustina Vashchenko and their daughters, Lidiya, Lyuba, and Liliya, and Maria Chmykhalov and her son, Timofey, and the other members of these two families, seeking a prompt and humanitarian solution to their plight. Yet three and a half years later, they still await permission to emigrate.

The families' situation has now taken on a new and potentially tragic aspect. After three and a half years of waiting, in frustration and now in despair, two of the family members, Mrs. Augustina Vashenko and her daughter, Lidiya, have embarked upon a hunger strike in support of their goals. Despite the efforts of the Embassy staff and of the families' other friends and sincere well-wishers in the United States and in Europe to dissuade them from this life-endangering course, the two women have made clear they are determined to continue their fast.

Our Embassy in Moscow has discussed this matter with your Ministry of Foreign Affairs, informing the Ministry that the two families have agreed to leave the Embassy and return to their

Authority: NLS597-001 #47 SMC 10/24/79
 BY: CJS, NMA Date: 7/29/82
 DECLASSIFIED

homes in Chernogorsk for the processing of their applications for emigration, according to Soviet laws and procedures, if their other family members residing in Chernogorsk are first permitted to emigrate, and if the seven family members are guaranteed that they will not be prosecuted by the authorities once they depart the U.S. Embassy and assured that their applications for exit permission for reunification with their other family members abroad will be granted. Out of deep concern for their lives and health and for the plight of their family members, I ask you to intervene personally in this matter to allow these people to emigrate and thereby bring about a humanitarian solution before it is too late.

Ronald Reagan



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

SYSTEM II

90012

January 14, 1982

CONFIDENTIALMEMORANDUM FOR WILLIAM P. CLARK
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Presidential Action in Support of Hunger-Striking
Pentecostals in our Embassy in Moscow

The Secretary believes that direct Presidential action, in the form of a message from the President to President Brezhnev (proposed text attached) on behalf of the two Pentecostals on a hunger strike in our Moscow Embassy, may be our only remaining chance to bring the fast to an end. Our fears for the health and ultimately the lives of these two Christian women, Mrs. Augustina Vashchenko and her daughter, Lidiya, have sharpened as it has become clear that neither we nor their many other supporters in this country can persuade them to end their hunger strike.

Mrs. Vashchenko and Lidiya, who have been living in refuge in our Embassy in Moscow for the last three and a half years with five other Pentecostals, continue their hunger strike in hopes of gaining Soviet permission to emigrate. The women commenced fasting on the 27th of December, taking only liquids for sustenance. The Embassy reports that the women have lost some weight, but are not yet in serious condition. The women appear determined to maintain their fast until they and their families are permitted to leave the Soviet Union -- a solution they continue to believe the US Government can "force" the Soviet Union to grant them.

While we have no guarantee that the President's intervention will be responded to favorably by the Soviets, the approach outlined in the draft message offers the Soviets a face-saving way out of this tragic problem if they have any interest in this at all. We, therefore, feel that this last attempt to work through direct diplomatic channels is worth trying and should be done now.

It will be essential that the President's message not be publicized. If the Soviets do not take prompt steps to act on the President's proposal, however, we will want to consider public statements and a media campaign in support of the Pentecostals -- steps which are unlikely to bring positive action from the Soviets but would demonstrate the President's continuing concerns.

CONFIDENTIAL


GDS 1/14/88

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NLRR F06-114/9 #10586

BY KML NARA DATE 4/7/2011

We recommend that the letter be delivered to Gromyko by Ambassador Hartman, and plan to cable the text to him as soon as your clearance is obtained.


L. Paul Bremer, III
Executive Secretary

Attachment:

Draft Presidential Message

Proposed Message to President Brezhnev

Dear Mr. President:

I wish to direct your attention on an urgent basis to the plight of seven Christians who have been living in our Embassy in Moscow since seeking refuge there in June, 1978. These people seek permission from Soviet authorities for themselves and their families to emigrate from the Soviet Union according to the principles of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. We have repeatedly approached the Soviet Government on behalf of Petr and Augustina Vashchenko and their daughters, Lidiya, Lyuba, and Liliya; and Maria Chmykhalov and her son, Timofey; and the other members of these two families, seeking a prompt and humanitarian solution to their plight. Yet three and a half years later, they still await permission to emigrate.

The families' situation has now taken on a new and potentially tragic aspect. After three and a half years of waiting, in frustration and now in despair, two of the family members, Mrs. Augustina Vashchenko and her daughter, Lidiya, have embarked upon a hunger strike in support of their goals. Despite the efforts of the Embassy staff and of the families' other friends and sincere well-wishers in the United States and in Europe to dissuade them from this life-endangering course, the two women have made clear they are determined to continue their fast.

Our Embassy in Moscow has discussed this matter with your Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the two families have agreed that they will leave the Embassy and return to their homes in Chernogorsk for the processing of their applications for emigration, according to Soviet laws and procedures, if their other family members residing in Chernogorsk are first permitted to emigrate, and if the seven family members are guaranteed that they will not be prosecuted by the authorities once they depart the U.S. Embassy and assured that their applications for exit permission for reunification with their other family members abroad will be granted. Out of deep concern for their lives and health and for the plight of their family members, I ask you to intervene personally in this matter to allow these people to emigrate and thereby bring about a humanitarian solution before it is too late.

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Authority: NLSS 97-001 #50 8716 10/22/99
BY: CWS, NARA, Date: 7/29/02

CONFIDENTIAL

PENTECOSTALS 33

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
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PAGE 01
EOB087

MOSCOW 0534
AN009361

DTG: 151637Z JAN 82 PSN: 032974
TOR: 015/1744Z CSN: HCE371

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~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ MOSCOW 00534

NODIS
E.O. 12065: RDS-1 1/15/02 (HARTMAN, ARTHUR A) OR-M
TAGS: SREF, SHUM, UR, US
SUBJECT: MESSAGE TO BREZHNEV IN SUPPORT OF PENTECOSTALISTS
REF: STATE 10429

1. ~~(C-ENTIRE TEXT)~~.

2. IMMEDIATELY ON RECEIPT OF REFTEL, DCM DELIVERED PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO MFA USA DIVISION CHIEF KOMPLEKTOV WITH REQUEST THAT IT BE IMMEDIATELY PASSED ON TO PRESIDENT BREZHNEV. DCM EMPHASIZED THAT THE LETTER WAS COUCHED IN HUMANITARIAN TERMS, THAT IT CONTAINED NO POLEMICS OF ANY SORT, AND THAT IT DESCRIBED A PROPOSAL WHICH OFFERED A WAY OUT OF THE PROBLEM. KOMPLEKTOV SAID HE WOULD DO SO AND WOULD NOT COMMENT ON THE LETTER ITSELF, BUT HE DID HAVE SOME REMARKS TO MAKE ON THE PENTECOSTAL ISSUE. KOMPLEKTOV THEN, IN A TONE WHICH WAS INSENSITIVE EVEN FOR HIM, SAID THAT THE PENTECOSTALS WERE ENTIRELY A RESPONSIBILITY OF THE U. S. EMBASSY AND THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT HAD NO RESPONSIBILITY IN ANY WAY. HE CALLED THE PROPOSAL OFFERED IN THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER -- WHICH THE DCM HAD DISCUSSED WITH HIS DEPUTY THE WEEK BEFORE -- "NOT A PROPOSAL, BUT A CONDITION." THE DCM DISAGREED, SAYING THAT IT HAD TAKEN THE FAMILIES SEVERAL MONTHS TO AGREE ON SUCH A PLAN AND THAT IT OFFERED A GOOD POSSIBILITY FOR SOLVING THE PROBLEM. RETURNING TO THE ATTACK, KOMPLEKTOV SAID THAT THE PRIOR EMIGRATION OF THE FAMILY MEMBERS WAS CERTAINLY A PRE-CONDITION. HE SAID THAT THE SOVIET POSITION WAS CLEAR AND CONSISTENT: THE FAMILIES SHOULD GO BACK TO CHERNOGORSK AND APPLY FOR EMIGRATION PERMISSION THERE. IN CLOSING HE ASKED SARCASTICALLY WHAT WERE OUR PLANS FOR RELEASING THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER. DCM ASSURED HIM THAT THE LETTER WOULD NOT BE RELEASED BECAUSE WE WANTED TO PROVIDE THE BEST POSSIBILITY FOR RESOLVING THIS CASE. DISBELIEVING, KOMPLEKTOV SAID "WE WILL SEE WHETHER THE U. S. SIDE LEAKS THE LETTER." IN CLOSING, HE REITERATED THAT HE WAS NOT COMMENTING ON THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER ITSELF AND THAT IT WOULD BE TRANSMITTED TO PRESIDENT BREZHNEV.
HARTMAN##
BT

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Authority ALLS 97-001 #48 SMK 10/22/99
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NARA, Date 7/29/02

CONFIDENTIAL

NSC/S PROFILE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ID 8200225

Pentecostals
74

RECEIVED 15 JAN 82 11

TO CLARK FROM BREMER

DOC DATE 14 JAN 81

DECLASSIFIED
White House Guidelines, August 23, 1997
By CS NARA, Date 7/29/02

KEYWORDS: USSR HS BREZHNEV, LEONID
HUMAN RIGHTS VASHCHENKO, AUGUSTIN
CHMYKHALOV, MARIA
SUBJECT: PROPOSED PRES MSG TO BREZHNEV RE HUNGER STRIKING PENTECOSTALISTS IN
US EMBASSY IN MOSCOW

ACTION: FOR RECORD PURPOSES DUE: STATUS C FILES PA

FOR ACTION FOR CONCURRENCE FOR INFO
CLEVELAND
PIPES
STEARMAN
LORD

COMMENTS MEMO ALREADY FWDED TO PRES BY CLARK PER COLSON.

RECD VIA LDX. #01372

REF# LOG NSC IF ID (L / L)

ACTION OFFICER (S) ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED DUE COPIES TO

DISPATCH _____ W/ATTCH FILE _____ (C)

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

1/14

Secretariat
Action on this

has already been
taken. Staff should be
so informed but
should get info copy.
We will send copy of
what was done once
it comes back from the
President - J.

Proposed Message to President Brezhnev

Dear Mr. President:

I wish to direct your attention on an urgent basis to the plight of seven Christians who have been living in our Embassy in Moscow since seeking refuge there in June, 1978. These people seek permission from Soviet authorities for themselves and their families to emigrate from the Soviet Union according to the principles of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. We have repeatedly approached the Soviet Government on behalf of Petr and Augustina Vashchenko and their daughters, Lidiya, Lyuba, and Liliya; and Maria Chmykhalov and her son, Timofey; and the other members of these two families, seeking a prompt and humanitarian solution to their plight. Yet three and a half years later, they still await permission to emigrate.

The families' situation has now taken on a new and potentially tragic aspect. After three and a half years of waiting, in frustration and now in despair, two of the family members, Mrs. Augustina Vashchenko and her daughter, Lidiya, have embarked upon a hunger strike in support of their goals. Despite the efforts of the Embassy staff and of the families' other friends and sincere well-wishers in the United States and in Europe to dissuade them from this life-endangering course, the two women have made clear they are determined to continue their fast.

Our Embassy in Moscow has discussed this matter with your Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the two families have agreed that they will leave the Embassy and return to their homes in Chernogorsk for the processing of their applications for emigration, according to Soviet laws and procedures, if their other family members residing in Chernogorsk are first permitted to emigrate, and if the seven family members are guaranteed that they will not be prosecuted by the authorities once they depart the U.S. Embassy and assured that their applications for exit permission for reunification with their other family members abroad will be granted. Out of deep concern for their lives and health and for the plight of their family members, I ask you to intervene personally in this matter to allow these people to emigrate and thereby bring about a humanitarian solution before it is too late.

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NARA, Date 7/29/02 10/22/99
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

We recommend that the letter be delivered to Gromyko by Ambassador Hartman, and plan to cable the text to him as soon as your clearance is obtained.

L. Paul Bremer, III
L. Paul Bremer, III
Executive Secretary

Attachment:

Draft Presidential Message

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

02 JUN 14 PM 5 28

[Handwritten initials]

WASHFAX RECEIPT
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

B
S/S #

02 JUN 14 PM 5:28

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MESSAGE NO. 01372 CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL No. Pages 3

FROM: CEMcManaway S/S 23126
(Officer name) (Office symbol) (Extension) (Room number)

MESSAGE DESCRIPTION Bremer/Clark - "Presidential Action in Support of
Hunger-Striking Pentecostalists in our Embassy in Moscow"

<u>TO: (Agency)</u>	<u>DELIVER TO:</u>	<u>Extension</u>	<u>Room No.</u>
<u>NSC</u>	<u>ADMIRAL NANCE</u>	<u>456-2255</u>	

FOR: CLEARANCE INFORMATION PER REQUEST COMMENT

REMARKS:

S/S Officer: *[Signature]*

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22 JAN 14 P 5: 28

STAFF C/O

STATION ROOM

Clark

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C = Copy

O = Original

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PENTECOSTALS 00

NLRRF06-114/9 #10587

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
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10587

BY KML NARA DATE 4/7/2011

PAGE 01 OF 02
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0784

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD 5689

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ MOSCOW 00531

EXDIS
DEPT FOR EUR/SOV
E. O. 12065: GDS 1/15/88 (HARTMAN, ARTHUR A) OR-M
TAGS: SREF, SHUM, US, UR
SUBJECT: EX-PRESIDENT CARTER PHONES PENTECOSTALS
REF: (A) MOSCOW 480 (B) STATE 10146

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~, ENTIRE TEXT.
2. SUMMARY: FORMER PRESIDENT CARTER JANUARY 15 SPOKE WITH AMBASSADOR HARTMAN AND LYUBA VASHCHENKO TO RELAY HIS SUPPORT FOR THE PENTECOSTALS' DESIRE TO EMIGRATE AND TO REQUEST THAT THE HUNGER STRIKE BE ENDED. THE PENTECOSTALS EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE CALL BUT DID NOT PROMISE TO END THEIR STRIKE COMPLETELY. END SUMMARY.

3. IN AN INITIAL CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR HARTMAN, EX-PRESIDENT CARTER SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN ASKED BY GOVERNOR GEORGE WALLACE TO URGE MEMBERS OF THE VASHCHENKO FAMILY TO END THEIR HUNGER STRIKE. AMBASSADOR HARTMAN EXPLAINED THE VASHCHENKOS' GOAL -- THEIR EMIGRATION FROM THE SOVIET UNION ALONG WITH FAMILY MEMBERS STILL IN CHERNOGORSK -- AND NOTED THE SOVIET UNION'S REFUSAL TO DATE TO MEET THIS CONDITION. MR. CARTER ASKED WHETHER IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL IF HE SPOKE WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN AND SENT A MESSAGE ON THE PENTECOSTALS' BEHALF (THE ADDRESSEE WAS NOT SPECIFIED, PRESUMABLY TO PRESIDENT BREZHNEV). THE AMBASSADOR ENCOURAGED MR. CARTER TO MAKE SUCH AN EFFORT, AND ALSO TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THE EMBASSY'S APPRECIATION FOR SAVE SECRETARY JANE DRAKE, WHO ARRANGED THE CALL VIA GOV. WALLACE AND WAS PRESENT WITH MR. CARTER. THE FORMER PRESIDENT NOTED IN RETURN THAT JANE DRAKE AS A PRESBYTERIAN AND HE AS A BAPTIST WOULD ATTEMPT TO DISSUADE THE VASHCHENKOS FROM THE STRIKE ON RELIGIOUS GROUNDS. MR. CARTER, AT AMBASSADOR HARTMAN'S REQUEST, ALSO SAID HE WOULD SPEAK WITH THE CHMYKHALOV'S, WHO HAVE NOT PARTICIPATED IN THE HUNGER STRIKE, TO INDICATE HIS SUPPORT OF THEIR DESIRE TO EMIGRATE AS WELL.

4. AFTER THE CALL WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE PENTECOSTALS

EXDIS

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
MESSAGE CENTER

PAGE 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 0531 DTG: 151615Z JAN 82 PSN: 033677

IN THE CONSULAR SECTION, MR. CARTER TALKED WITH LYUBA VASHCHENKO, WHO SPEAKS THE BEST ENGLISH, FOR ABOUT 10 MINUTES. LYUBA DID NOT TRANSLATE OR CONFER WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF HER FAMILY DURING THE CALL, BUT TOLD MR. CARTER THAT LIDIA AND AUGUSTINA WOULD NOT COMPLETELY END THEIR HUNGER STRIKE -- A POSITION WHICH WAS APPARENTLY AGREED UPON BEFORE THE CALL WAS RECEIVED. LYUBA ALSO REQUESTED MR. CARTER TO ASK PRESIDENT REAGAN TO SUPPORT THEIR EFFORTS TO EMIGRATE.

EXDIS

5. THE CALL UNFORTUNATELY ENDED BEFORE MR. CARTER HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK WITH MEMBERS OF THE CHMYKHALOV FAMILY. A CONSULAR OFFICER NONETHELESS PASSED ON MR. CARTER'S SUPPORT OF THEIR DESIRE TO EMIGRATE AS EXPRESSED TO THE AMBASSADOR.

EXDIS

6. COMMENT: IN HIS MEDICAL EXAMINATION JANUARY 15 BEFORE THE PHONE CALL, THE EMBASSY PHYSICIAN NOTED STEADY WEIGHT AND GENERALLY GOOD PHYSICAL CONDITION IN THE HUNGER STRIKERS. THEIR MOOD WAS CONSIDERABLY ELEVATED FROM THE LAST FEW DAYS, WHEN THEY HAD BEEN WORRIED AND DEPRESSED.
HARTMAN
BT

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92

NLRR Feb-114/9 #10588

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BY KAC NARA DATE 4/7/2011

PAGE 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 0853 DTG: 221653Z JAN 82 PSN: 042065
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1009

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD 5771
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ MOSCOW 00853

EXDIS
DEPT FOR EUR/SOV
GENEVA FOR AMB HARTMAN
E. O. 12065: GDS 1/22/88 (LEININGER, WAYNE S) OR-V
TAGS: SREF, SHUM, UR, US
SUBJECT: PENTECOSTAL HUNGER STRIKE - JANUARY 22, 1982
REF: MOSCOW 772

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~, ENTIRE TEXT.
2. SUMMARY: THE VASHCHENKO FAMILY RECEIVED THE AMBASSADOR'S EXPRESSION OF CONCERN (REPORTED REFTEL), TRANSMITTED VIA CONSOFF, IN A SERIOUS BUT NONDEMONSTRATIVE MANNER ON THE EVENING OF JANUARY 21. THEY EVINCED LITTLE REACTION AT THE TIME, AND LITTLE SINCE, TO THE CONTENTS OF THE STATEMENT. ON JANUARY 22, KENT HILL REPORTED THE ISSUANCE OF A SOVIET VISA TO A CANADIAN DOCTOR WHO WILL ATTEMPT TO EXAMINE THE HUNGER STRIKERS, AND SPOKE TO THE VASHCHENKOS AT LENGTH IN A VAIN ATTEMPT TO DISCOURAGE THE INTENSIFICATION OF THE STRIKERS' REGIMEN. END SUMMARY.
3. DURING THE READING OF THE STATEMENT PRESENTING THE AMBASSADOR'S SENTIMENTS TO THE VASHCHENKO FAMILY A STILLNESS PREVAILED. ALL SEEMED TO GRASP THE SERIOUSNESS OF PURPOSE THE MESSAGE CONVEYED.
4. ONLY TWO COMMENTS WERE MADE IN THE WAKE OF THE DELIVERY OF THE AMBASSADOR'S INSTRUCTIONS. LIDIA REMARKED THAT SHE HAD NOT KNOWN THAT THE AMBASSADOR WOULD BE AWAY FROM THE EMBASSY, WHILE AUGUSTINA INQUIRED AS TO WHEN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS WOULD TAKE PLACE. THE CONSULAR OFFICER'S RESPONSES WERE MET WITH THANKS ON THE PART OF THE FAMILY, AND HE DEPARTED. THEY HAVE GIVEN NO EVIDENCE OF A CHANGE OF HEART TO US SINCE.
5. IN A PHONE CALL TO THE CONSULAR SECTION ON JANUARY 22, KENT HILL INFORMED US THAT A CANADIAN DOCTOR HAS RECEIVED A VISA TO THE SOVIET UNION AND WILL BE ARRIVING TO ATTEMPT TO SEE THE HUNGER STRIKERS IN THE NEAR FUTURE. HILL SAID HE WOULD CONVEY THE DOCTOR'S ITINERARY TO EUR/SOV (VAN LANINGHAM) TO BE PASSED

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43

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PAGE 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 0853

DTG: 221653Z JAN 82 PSN: 042065

TO THE EMBASSY BY SECURE MEANS. THE ADMINISTRATIVE
DETAILS OF THE HILL/BUZZARD TRIP, MEANTIME, ARE
PROCEEDING NORMALLY, BUT THEY AS YET HAVE NO WORD ON
THEIR OWN VISAS. HILL ALSO MENTIONED A PIECE IN THE
JANUARY 25 ISSUE OF TIME MAGAZINE ON THE FAMILIES
PUBLICIZING THE SITUATION.

6. WHEN HE ASKED OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS HERE, HILL
WAS INFORMED OF THE INTENTION OF AUGUSTINA AND LIDIA
TO CEASE TAKING LIQUIDS AS OF SATURDAY EVENING,
JANUARY 23. HE WAS DEEPLY DISTURBED BY THE NEWS
AND PROMISED TO ATTEMPT TO DISSUADE THEM FROM THAT
COURSE. AFTER SPEAKING WITH THE FAMILY -- PRIMARILY
WITH LYUBA AND LIDIA -- FOR OVER FORTY-FIVE MINUTES,
HILL AGAIN SPOKE WITH A CONSULAR OFFICER TO CONFESS
HIS OWN INABILITY TO CONVINCED THE HUNGER STRIKERS TO
GIVE EFFORTS ON THEIR BEHALF MORE TIME BEFORE RESORTING
TO MEASURES THAT WILL PLACE THEIR LIVES IN DANGER.
ZIMMERMANN
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PAGE 01 OF 02 SECSTATE WASHDC 7847 DTG: 222349Z JAN 82 PSN: 042358
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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE 0385

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD PRIORITY 3710
WHITE HOUSE 7063

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ STATE 017847

NODIS
E. O. 12065: GDS 01/22/88 (SCANLAN, JOHN D.)

TAGS: SREF, SHUM, UR, US
SUBJECT: BREZHNEV RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT'S LETTER
REGARDING PENTECOSTALISTS
REF: STATE 10429

1. ~~(C~~ - ENTIRE TEXT).

2. SUMMARY: ON 22 JANUARY, SOVIET DCM BESSMERTNYKH DELIVERED PRESIDENT BREZHNEV'S RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT REAGAN'S LETTER (REFTTEL) IN SUPPORT OF THE PENTECOSTALISTS. THE LETTER REPEATED THE LONG-STANDING SOVIET POSITION CONCERNING THE PROBLEM - THAT THE US SIDE SHOULD MAKE THE FAMILIES LEAVE THE EMBASSY AND THAT THEIR EMIGRATION REQUEST WOULD BE CONSIDERED ONLY AFTER THEY RETURN TO CHERNOGORSK. END SUMMARY.

2. AT 1130 EST ON JANUARY 22, SOVIET DCM BESSMERTNYKH DELIVERED TO ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS SCANLAN THE RESPONSE FROM BREZHNEV TO PRESIDENT REAGAN'S LETTER OF JANUARY 15. THE TEXT OF THE RESPONSE IS PROVIDED BELOW.

3. IN DELIVERING THE LETTER, BESSMERTNYKH BRIEFLY SUMMARIZED THE CONTENTS, POINTING OUT THAT THE FAMILIES WOULD NOT BE PROSECUTED SHOULD THEY LEAVE THE EMBASSY, AND THAT THEIR REQUEST TO EMIGRATE WOULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED AFTER THEY HAD RETURNED TO CHERNOGORSK. HE NOTED THAT AT THE END OF THE LETTER, PRESIDENT BREZHNEV REFERRED TO THE POLOVCHAK CASE. IN RESPONSE TO SCANLAN'S QUERY ABOUT A POSSIBLE LINKAGE BETWEEN THIS CASE AND THAT OF THE PENTECOSTALISTS, BESSMERTNYKH STATED THAT THE SOVIET SIDE WAS MAKING A "PHILOSOPHICAL" RATHER THAN A PRACTICAL LINKAGE.

4. SCANLAN UNDERTOOK TO TRANSMIT THE LETTER PROMPTLY, AND HE REITERATED US CONCERN FOR THE FATE OF THE PENTECOSTALISTS, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THE ONGOING HUNGER STRIKE. HE EMPHASIZED OUR INTEREST IN AVERTING A POSSIBLE TRAGEDY.

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PAGE 02 OF 02 SECSTATE WASHDC 7847 DTG: 222349Z JAN 82 PSN: 042358

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5. BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: WITH REGARD TO YOUR COMMUNICATION OF JANUARY 15, 1982, I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THE FOLLOWING.

THE PEOPLE FOR WHOM YOU ARE PETITIONING HAVE REALLY FOUND THEMSELVES IN A SITUATION NOT TO BE ENVIED. AFTER ALL, THIS SITUATION WAS CREATED AND HAS LONG BEEN MAINTAINED IN AN ARTIFICIAL MANNER. A WAY OUT OF IT COULD HAVE BEEN FOUND A LONG TIME AGO. AT THE PRESENT TIME, TOO, IT IS POSSIBLE TO RESOLVE THIS QUESTION.



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THE ONLY THING NEEDED IS THAT THE US SIDE, RATHER THAN DETAIN THOSE PEOPLE WITHIN THE WALLS OF ITS EMBASSY, TAKE MEASURES FOR THEM TO LEAVE IT. NOTHING STANDS IN THE WAY OF SUCH A STEP - NOBODY INTENDED OR INTENDS TO PROSECUTE THAT GROUP OF PENTECOSTALISTS.

AS TO THEIR DEPARTURE FROM THE USSR, THIS QUESTION CAN BE CONSIDERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROCEDURE ESTABLISHED UNDER OUR LAWS AND EQUALLY APPLICABLE TO ALL SOVIET CITIZENS, AFTER THOSE PERSONS RETURN TO THE PLACE OF THEIR RESIDENCE.

NO
DIS

HOWEVER, THE GROUP OF THE SECT MEMBERS THAT HAPPENED TO BE IN THE US EMBASSY IS BEING PUSHED FOR SOME REASON OR ANOTHER IN A DIFFERENT DIRECTION - TOWARD VIOLATION OF THE SOVIET LAWS, SETTING FORTH PRIOR CONDITIONS AND ALL SORTS OF DEMANDS THAT CAN LEAD ONLY TO AN IMPASSE. THUS THE ENTIRE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE EXISTING SITUATION RESTS WITH THE US SIDE, INCLUDING THE

RESPONSIBILITY OF A HUMANITARIAN NATURE. WE ARE NOT THE ONES TO BE CALLED UPON TO EXERCISE HUMANENESS. FOR THAT MATTER, THE REFERENCES TO HUMANENESS ARE NOT CONVINCING, WHILE, IN FACT, ATTEMPTS ARE BEING MADE TO MANIPULATE THE DESTINIES OF INDIVIDUALS AND NOT ONLY THOSE OF THE SECT MEMBERS WHO ARE KEPT IN THE US EMBASSY.

NO
DIS

WHAT KIND OF HUMANENESS CAN ONE INVOKE, WHEN CHILDREN ARE FORCEFULLY SEPARATED FROM THEIR PARENTS, AS IS THE CASE OF THE SOVIET CITIZENS POLOVCHAKS? INDEED, WHEN EVEN AN AMERICAN COURT RULES TO RETURN VLADIMIR POLOVCHAK - A MINOR - TO HIS PARENTS AND THE US EXECUTIVE AUTHORITIES ARE RAISING OBSTACLES THERETO, IT IS NOT SIMPLY INHUMANE, BUT IMMORAL.

I WOULD LIKE TO BELIEVE THAT ON THE PART OF THE US SIDE NECESSARY MEASURES WILL BE TAKEN TO DISCONTINUE THE ABNORMAL SITUATION EXISTING AROUND THE GROUP OF SOVIET CITIZENS WHO FIND THEMSELVES IN THE US EMBASSY IN MOSCOW.

SINCERELY, L. BREZHNEV, JANUARY 21, 1982. END TEXT. HAIG
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PENTECOSTALS 46

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10590

BY KML NARA DATE 4/7/2011

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MOSCOW 0869
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1026

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ MOSCOW 00869

NODIS
E.O. 12065: RDS-3 1/23/01 (ZIMMERMANN, WARREN) OR-M
TAGS: SREF, UR, US
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE PRESIDENTIAL LETTER TO THE
PENTECOSTALS

1. ~~1.~~ - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT A LETTER FROM PRESIDENT REAGAN TO THE PENTECOSTALS MIGHT PROVE USEFUL - AT THE PROPER TIME - IN PERSUADING AUGUSTINA AND LIDIA TO END THEIR HUNGER STRIKE. WE SEE SUCH A LETTER AS OUR LAST CARD TO PLAY BEFORE A DECISION TO MOVE THE HUNGER STRIKERS TO A SOVIET HOSPITAL. AS SUCH IT WOULD BEST BE WITHHELD UNTIL THE EMBASSY DOCTOR DETERMINES THAT THEIR CONDITION IS BECOMING LIFE-THREATENING. LIDIA AND AUGUSTINA HAVE ANNOUNCED THAT THEY WILL NOW CEASE TAKING ANY LIQUIDS AFTER TODAY. IF, AS SO FAR IN THE HUNGER STRIKE, AUGUSTINA AND LIDIA BACK OFF OF THIS EXTREME POSITION BEFORE THEIR HEALTH IS SERIOUSLY THREATENED, WE WOULD ADVISE AGAINST A PRESIDENTIAL LETTER; WE THINK IT WOULD BE EFFECTIVE WITH THEM ONLY AS A LAST-DITCH EFFORT. HOWEVER, SHOULD THE VASHCHENKOS THIS TIME CARRY OUT THEIR INTENTION TO THE POINT WHERE DANGER TO THEIR LIVES SEEMED IMMINENT, WE WOULD WANT, AT LEAST 24 HOURS BEFORE THEIR SITUATION REQUIRED HOSPITALIZATION, TO PRESENT A PRESIDENTIAL REQUEST THAT THEY RECONSIDER THEIR ACTION.

3. WE THINK A PRESIDENTIAL LETTER WOULD BE MOST EFFECTIVE IF IT MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:
-- THE PRESIDENT IS PERSONALLY COMMITTED TO SEEKING THE EMIGRATION OF THE VASHCHENKOS AND CHMYKHALOVS ALONG WITH THEIR FAMILIES IN CHERNOGORSK;
-- THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH SOVIET OFFICIALS AT A HIGH LEVEL TO SEEK A RESOLUTION OF THIS PROBLEM;
-- WHILE THESE EFFORTS HAVE NOT SO FAR BEEN SUCCESSFUL, THE PRESIDENT IS DETERMINED TO CONTINUE THEM AND IS HOPEFUL THAT A SOLUTION WILL BE FOUND;

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PAGE 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 0869

DTG: 231222Z JAN 82 PSN: 043174

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. -- THE PRESIDENT IS ABOVE ALL CONCERNED FOR THE
 . HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE PENTECOSTALS;
 .
 . -- THEREFORE, THE PRESIDENT URGES THE VASHCHENKOS
 . TO TOTALLY ABANDON THEIR HUNGER STRIKE.
 .

4. AMBASSADOR HARTMAN CONCURS IN THIS APPROACH.
 ZIMMERMANN
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48

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10591

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PAGE 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 0932 DTG: 251653Z JAN 82 PSN: 045436
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 00932

EXDIS
DEPT FOR EUR/SOV; GENEVA FOR AMB HARTMAN
E.O. 12065: RDS-3 1/25/02 (ZIMMERMANN, WARREN) OR-M
TAGS: SHUM, SREF, UR, US, FI, GW
SUBJECT: CONTINGENCY ARRANGEMENTS FOR AIR MEDICAL
EVACUATION OF PENTECOSTAL HUNGER STRIKERS
REF: (A) MOSCOW 772 (NOTAL), (B) MOSCOW 853 (NOTAL)

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~, ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: IN LIGHT OF THE RECENT DECISION OF TWO MEMBERS OF THE PENTECOSTAL GROUP IN RESIDENCE IN THE EMBASSY TO INTENSIFY THEIR FOUR-WEEK-OLD HUNGER STRIKE BY FORESWEARING ALL LIQUIDS, APPROACHES HAVE BEEN UNDERTAKEN TO THE FINNISH AND FRG EMBASSIES CONCERNING CONTINGENCY MEDICAL EVACUATION VIA THEIR RESPECTIVE NATIONAL AIRLINES. BOTH MISSIONS RESPONDED IN A POSITIVE VEIN, THOUGH COGNIZANT OF THE NECESSARY AND HIGHLY PROBLEMATIC SOVIET ACCESSION TO SUCH A PLAN. A PHONE REPORT FROM CHRISTIAN SOLIDARITY INTERNATIONAL RAISED THE POSSIBILITY OF RECEPTIVITY OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF SWITZERLAND AND AUSTRIA TO RECEIVING THE POTENTIAL MEDICAL EVACUEES. THE RESPECTIVE EMBASSIES WILL BE CONTACTED JANUARY 26 IN THIS REGARD. EMBASSY HELSINKI AND AMCONSUL FRANKFURT ARE REQUESTED TO MAKE PRELIMINARY INQUIRIES AS TO HOSPITAL RECEPTION AND CARE LOCALLY. END SUMMARY.

3. THE DECISION OF AUGUSTINA AND LIDIA VASHCHENKO TO ABSTAIN FROM ALL LIQUIDS -- EVEN WATER -- COULD BRING ABOUT A MEDICAL CRISIS BY MID-WEEK, ACCORDING TO THE EMBASSY PHYSICIAN. WE HAVE ALREADY WARNED THE SOVIETS OF THE POSSIBLE NEED FOR A MEDICAL EVACUATION; WE NOW PLAN TO GO BACK TO THEM TO SAY THAT THE EMERGENCY HAS NOW ARISEN AND TO ASK THEM TO GRANT EXIT PERMISSION TO THE TWO HUNGER-STRIKERS. WHILE THE ODDS OF SUCH EXIT PERMISSION BEING GRANTED ARE SLIM, OUR CONCERN FOR THE LIVES AND HEALTH OF THE TWO PENTECOSTALISTS DICTATES THAT WE MAKE A STRONG EFFORT TO GET ALL EMERGENCY

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PAGE 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 0932

DTG: 251653Z JAN 82 PSN: 045436

PROCEDURES IN PLACE IN CASE THE SOVIETS ACCEDE. ACCORDINGLY, ORAL REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING MEDICAL EVACUATION ON COMMERCIAL CARRIERS WERE MADE OF THE FINNISH AND FRG EMBASSIES JANUARY 25. (SPECIAL MEDIVAC FLIGHTS, WHETHER OF USG OR PRIVATE ORIGIN, INVOLVE COMPLICATED CLEARANCES OF FLIGHT PLANS AND CREWS THAT ADD SIGNIFICANTLY TO LEAD TIMES.)

EX
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4. ADCM AND CHIEF OF CONSULAR SECTION CALLED ON FINNISH MINISTER/COUNSELLOR ERKKI TIILIKAINEN JANUARY 25 SEEKING FINNISH COOPERATION IN THE CASE OF SOVIET AGREEMENT TO A MEDICAL EVACUATION OF THE HUNGER STRIKERS. AFTER RECEIVING A MODEST EXPOSITION OF THE BACKGROUND OF THE SITUATION, TIILIKAINEN AGREED TO FACILITATE THE TECHNICAL ARRANGEMENTS OF SUCH A MEDIVAC THROUGH FINNAIR, WHICH HAS FOUR FLIGHTS WEEKLY TO HELSINKI: TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY, AND SUNDAY. TIILIKAINEN'S ONLY CAVEAT HINGED ON THE POSSIBLE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF FINNISH PARTICIPATION IN THE AFFAIR, BUT HE ALLOWED THAT A SOVIET GRANT OF EXIT PERMISSION FOR SUCH AN EVACUATION WOULD ITSELF IMPLY POLITICAL APPROVAL. ADCM MCCALL ASSURED TIILIKAINEN THAT THE MEDIVAC FLIGHT WOULD BE ATTEMPTED ONLY WITH SOVIET CONSENT. TIILIKAINEN PROMISED TO COMMUNICATE THE RESULTS OF HIS COORDINATION EFFORTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

EX
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5. MUCH THE SAME SCENE PLAYED ITSELF OUT AT THE EMBASSY OF THE FRG IN A MEETING WITH MINISTER HERMANN HUBER. MR. HUBER WAS MOST FORTHCOMING IN OFFERING HIS ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING WITH LUFTHANSA FOR UP TO EIGHT SEATS (TWO STRETCHERS PLUS TWO ESCORTS)

EX
DIS

ON A STAND-BY BASIS. LUFTHANSA HAS DAILY FLIGHTS TO FRANKFURT. THUS, SHOULD ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS SUCCESSFULLY BE COMPLETED, A CONTINGENCY MEDICAL EVACUATION FLIGHT WILL BE AVAILABLE EVERY DAY OF THE WEEK, WITH DOUBLE POSSIBILITIES ON THE DAYS OF FINNAIR SERVICE.

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6. MARIANNE RIDGE, A REPRESENTATIVE OF CHRISTIAN SOLIDARITY INTERNATIONAL (AN ORGANIZATION ONG ACTIVE BT

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AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM 1308

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 00932

EXDIS
IN SUPPORT OF BOTH PENTECOSTAL FAMILIES IN REFUGE
IN MOSCOW), PHONED TO INQUIRE AS TO THE CONDITION
OF THE HUNGER STRIKERS AND TO REPORT WHAT SHE TERMED
"BEHIND THE SCENES EFFORTS" TO COORDINATE AN AUSTRIAN/
SWISS DEMARCHE TO THE SOVIETS IN SUPPORT OF THE RECENT
EFFORT OF NINE SWEDISH PARLIAMENTARIANS TO SECURE
THE EMIGRATION OF THE PENTECOSTALS THROUGH AN APPEAL
TO PRESIDENT BREZHNEV. ACCORDING TO RIDGE, "THE
AUSTRIANS" (SHE DID NOT SPECIFY WHO) HAD AGREED
BASICALLY TO THE PLAN IF THE SWISS THEMSELVES DECIDE
TO BECOME INVOLVED. CSI AND OTHER SUPPORTERS OF THE
PENTECOSTALS WILL SEEK TO CONVINCE THE SWISS FOREIGN
MINISTER, NOW IN GENEVA, TO BACK THE APPROACH. SINCE
IN ANY EVENT BOTH AIR AUSTRIA AND SWISSAIR CONDUCT
FREQUENT FLIGHTS FROM MOSCOW, EMBASSY PLANS TO
PRESENT THEM TOMORROW WITH REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE
SIMILAR TO THOSE BROACHED TO THE FINNS AND GERMANS.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: AMEMBASSY HELSINKI AND AMCONSUL
FRANKFURT ARE REQUESTED TO MAKE PRELIMINARY AND
TENTATIVE INQUIRIES AS TO THE AVAILABILITY OF QUALIFIED
MEDICAL ATTENTION FOR INDIVIDUALS LIKELY TO BE
SUFFERING SEVERE DEHYDRATION AND UNDERNOURISHMENT.
DEPARTMENT REQUESTED TO AFFIRM AVAILABILITY OF
EMERGENCY FUNDS TO COVER COSTS OF HOSPITALIZATION,
IF NECESSARY, UNTIL SUCH TIME AS PRIVATE SUPPORT
FOR THE CARE OF THE PENTECOSTALS COULD BE ARRANGED.
ZIMMERMANN
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PENTECOSTALS 51
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 00940

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DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO SECRETARY'S PARTY AND
AMBASSADOR HARTMAN IN GENEVA
E.O. 12065: RDS-3 1/25/02 (ZIMMERMANN, WARREN) OR-M
TAGS: SREF, UR, US
SUBJECT: CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT OF
PENTECOSTAL HUNGER STRIKERS
REFS: (A) 81 MOSCOW 1935, (B) 81 STATE 28253

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1. (C) - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. SUMMARY: EMBASSY PHYSICIAN, IN CONSULTATION WITH STATE DEPARTMENT MEDICAL DIVISION, HAS DETERMINED THAT THE PENTECOSTAL HUNGER STRIKERS ARE LIKELY TO REQUIRE MEDICAL TREATMENT UNAVAILABLE AT THE EMBASSY AFTER WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27. EMBASSY IS THUS PUTTING INTO MOTION MACHINERY FOR MEDICAL EVACUATION OF THE TWO VASCHENKOS FROM THE USSR ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, OR (IF THAT IS UNATTAINABLE) FOR REMOVAL OF THE PAIR TO A SOVIET HOSPITAL THE SAME DAY. DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO TRANSMIT PRESIDENTIAL LETTER TO EMBASSY BY OOB JANUARY 26.

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3. TWO JANUARY 25 EXAMINATIONS REVEALED AN ALARMING RECENT WEIGHT LOSS. THE EMBASSY PHYSICIAN DETERMINED THAT AUGUSTINA VASHCHENKO HAS LOST THREE AND ONE-HALF POUNDS AND LIDIA VASHCHENKO ONE AND ONE-HALF POUNDS SINCE THEIR JANUARY 24 EXAMINATION. IN THE MONTH OF THEIR FAST LIDIA HAS LOST FIVE POUNDS, (SHE NOW WEIGHS ONLY 93); AUGUSTINA HAS LOST 13 POUNDS (SHE NOW WEIGHS 166). BOTH AUGUSTINA AND LIDIA SHOW RESOLVE TO CONTINUE THEIR NO-LIQUIDS HUNGER STRIKE. THE EMBASSY DOCTOR HAS CONCLUDED, AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH DEPARTMENT MEDICAL BUREAU, THAT THE VASHCHENKOS MIGHT GO SEVEN DAYS WITHOUT WATER UNTIL DEATH, BUT THAT IRREVERSIBLE DAMAGE IS A SERIOUS DANGER AFTER FOUR DAYS.

4. THE EMBASSY THUS PLANS EITHER TO MEDICALLY EVACUATE THE HUNGER STRIKERS TO A THIRD COUNTRY OR SEEK MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE PAIR IN A SOVIET HOSPITAL ON JANUARY 27. WE WILL INITIATE THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS ON JANUARY 26:

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
MESSAGE CENTER

PAGE 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 0940

DTG: 251747Z JAN 82 PSN: 045444



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- . -- CHARGE WILL SEEK EMERGENCY APPOINTMENT WITH MFA USA DIVISION CHIEF KOMPLEKTOV TO REPEAT OUR REQUEST FOR SOVIET AUTHORIZATION FOR THE MEDICAL EVACUATION OF THE TWO VASHCHENKOS ON JANUARY 27 VIA EITHER THE FINNAIR OR LUFTHANSA REGULARLY SCHEDULED FLIGHT, OR SPECIAL U. S. MILITARY MEDEVAC PLANE (BOTH AIRLINES AND THE USAF HAVE BEEN CONTACTED AND ARE PREPARED TO ASSIST);
- . -- EMBASSY DOCTOR WILL NOTIFY THE HUNGER STRIKERS THAT THE TIME FOR THEIR HOSPITALIZATION IS GROWING NEAR IF THEY DO NOT END THEIR FAST;
- . -- CHARGE WILL READ PRESIDENTIAL LETTER TO THE HUNGER STRIKERS ASSURING THEM OF U. S. GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR THEIR FAMILY'S EMIGRATION AND REQUESTING THEM TO END THE HUNGER STRIKE.

5. SHOULD THE SOVIETS REFUSE TO ALLOW A MEDICAL EVACUATION OF THE HUNGER STRIKERS OR FAIL TO RESPOND TO OUR DEMARCHE BY 12:00 MOSCOW TIME JANUARY 27, CHARGE WILL AGAIN CONTACT MFA TO STATE THAT IN VIEW OF THE EMERGENCY SITUATION, THE EMBASSY WILL BE CALLING A SOVIET AMBULANCE TO TAKE THE HUNGER STRIKERS TO A SOVIET HOSPITAL FOR TREATMENT. THE CHARGE WILL EMPHASIZE THAT WE FULLY EXPECT THE EMBASSY DOCTOR AND A CONSULAR OFFICER TO BE ALLOWED TO ACCOMPANY THE VASHCHENKOS, AND THAT THE VASHCHENKOS WILL BE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO THE EMBASSY AFTER THEIR RECOVERY SHOULD THEY SO DESIRE. WE ANTICIPATE THAT AN AMBULANCE WILL BE SENT. IF SO, WE WILL ALLOW IT ONTO THE COMPOUND, BUT EMBASSY OFFICERS WELL KNOWN TO THE PENTECOSTALS - NOT SOVIET PERSONNEL - WILL PUT THE TWO HUNGER STRIKERS INTO THE VEHICLE. SHOULD THE SOVIETS FAIL TO RESPOND TO OUR CALL FOR AN AMBULANCE, WE WILL PLACE THE HUNGER STRIKERS IN AN EMBASSY VEHICLE AND, ACCOMPANIED BY THE EMBASSY DOCTOR AND A CONSULAR OFFICER, TAKE THEM TO A SOVIET HOSPITAL FOR TREATMENT.

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6. THE HUNGER STRIKERS WILL BE GIVEN EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO GO OFF OF THEIR FAST -- AND WILL BE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO DO SO -- BEFORE THE EMBASSY PROCEEDS WITH COMMITMENT TO A SOVIET HOSPITAL. THE DOCTOR IS PREPARED TO PROVIDE THE VASHCHENKOS WITH ADVICE ON REALIMENTATION AND WITH SPECIAL BEVERAGES.

7. ACTION EUR/SOV: PLEASE TRANSMIT PRESIDENTIAL LETTER TO EMBASSY BY OOB MOSCOW TIME TUESDAY, JANUARY 26. WE WILL NEED IT BY THEN IF IT IS TO PLAY A MAXIMUM ROLE IN OUR EFFORTS TO PERSUADE THE TWO TO END THEIR STRIKE.
ZIMMERMANN
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WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

Pentecostals
Rentochler
Pipes
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PAGE 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 0957
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BY KML NARA DATE 4/7/2011

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DE RUEHMO #0957 0261135
O 261134Z JAN 82
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1085
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE 5559

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ MOSCOW 00957

USMISSION PLEASE PASS AMBASSADOR HARTMAN
E.O. 12065: GDS 1/26/88 (MCCALL, SHERROD B) OR-M
TAGS: SREF, UR, US
SUBJECT: PENTECOSTALS BREAK NO-LIQUID HUNGER
- STRIKE

1. (U) LIDIA AND AUGUSTINA VASHCHENKO ANNOUNCED TO
PRESS MORNING OF JANUARY 26 THAT THEY WOULD BEGIN
TAKING FRUIT JUICE AND OTHER LIQUIDS WHILE CONTINUING
TO REFUSE SOLID FOOD.

2. (C) THE VASHCHENKOS HAVE CONFIRMED TO THE EMBASSY
DOCTOR THAT THEY ARE TAKING FRUIT JUICES, AND HE HAS
SEEN THEM DRINK LIQUIDS. THE DOCTOR NOTES THAT
WHILE THE DANGER TO THEIR HEALTH IS LESS IMMEDIATE
THE NO-LIQUIDS HUNGER STRIKE HAS WEAKENED LIDIA
AND AUGUSTINA'S BODILY STORES. EMBASSY DOCTOR
JUDGES THAT EVEN CONSUMING LIQUIDS THE VASHCHENKOS COULD

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WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

PAGE 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 0957

DTG: 261134Z JAN 82 PSN: 046435

FACE A DANGER TO THEIR HEALTH IN APPROXIMATELY 10
DAYS.

3. (U) EMBASSY WILL RESPOND TO PRESS QUERIES
BY STATING WE ARE STILL CONCERNED ABOUT THE
VASHCHENKO'S HEALTH ALTHOUGH WE ARE PLEASED THAT
THEY HAVE BEGUN TO CONSUME LIQUIDS. ZIMMERMANN
BT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Pentecostals⁵⁶

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

January 26, 1982

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR WILLIAM P. CLARK

FROM: RICHARD PIPES *R*SUBJECT: Brezhnev Response to President's Letter re the
Pentecostalists at U.S. Embassy Moscow

Attached at Tab I is a memorandum from you to the President forwarding State's translation of Brezhnev's letter of January 22 regarding the Pentecostalists at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. ~~(C)~~

RECOMMENDATION

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

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

Attachments:

- Tab I Memorandum to the President
- Tab A State's memorandum with translation, dated January 22, 1982.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Review January 26, 1988.

DECLASSIFIED
White House Guidelines, August 28, 1997
By *CS* NARA, Date *7/9/02*

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: WILLIAM P. CLARK

SUBJECT: Brezhnev's Answer to Your Letter in Support of
the Pentecostalists in Embassy Moscow

Brezhnev's response to your message of January 15 petulantly rejects any responsibility for the fate of the Pentecostalists presently given refuge at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. Brezhnev accuses us of "detaining" the Russians and inciting them to violate Soviet laws. "The entire responsibility for the existing situation rests on the U.S. side", he concludes. In this connection he alludes to the case of the Polovchak boy, who has refused to return with his parents from this country to the Soviet Union, accusing us of "forcefully separating him from his parents". (C)

There is in this response (Tab A) no hint of an ability either to face reality or to show normal human feelings. (C)

I concur with State that no further initiatives concerning the Pentecostalists should be undertaken until we have the results of the Secretary's meeting with Gromyko in Geneva. (C)

Attachment:

Tab A State's translation of the Brezhnev letter of
January 22

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Review January 26, 1988

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NLRRF010-11419 *10580

BY KML NARA DATE 4/7/2011



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

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10594

January 22, 1982

22 811:13

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~MEMORANDUM FOR WILLIAM P. CLARK
THE WHITE HOUSE

SHT. 10594

Subject: Brezhnev's Answer to the President's Letter in
Support of the Pentecostalists in Embassy Moscow

On January 22, Soviet Minister-Counselor Bessmertnykh delivered to Acting Assistant Secretary for European Affairs Scanlan Brezhnev's response to the President's letter regarding the Pentecostalists in Embassy Moscow. A translation of the letter is attached.

The position taken by Brezhnev reflects no change in the Soviet position. The one positive note of the letter is Brezhnev's reiteration of the assurance that the families will not be prosecuted should they leave the Embassy and return to Chernogorsk. The letter concludes by criticizing the U.S. position on the Polovchak case (the Ukrainian boy who refused to return to the USSR with his parents). In answer to a question, Bessmertnykh said that the reference to Polovchak represented a "philosophical" rather than a "practical" linkage.

We think that no further initiatives concerning the Pentecostalists should be undertaken until we have the results of the Secretary's meeting with Gromyko in Geneva on Tuesday.

L. Paul Bremer, III
Executive Secretary

Attachment:

Translation of Brezhnev Response

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NLRRF06-114/9 #10594

BY KML NARA DATE 4/7/2011

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
GDS 1/22/88

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NLRR F06-114/9 *10595

Unofficial translation

BY KML NARA DATE 4/7/2011

Dear Mr. President,

With regard to your communication of January 15, 1982, I would like to say the following.

The people whom you are petitioning for have really found themselves in a situation not to be envied. After all, this situation was created and has long been maintained in an artificial manner. A way out of it could have been found a long time ago. At the present time, too, it is possible to resolve this question.

The only thing needed is that the US side rather than detain those people within the walls of its Embassy, take measures for them to leave it. Nothing stands in the way of such a step - nobody intended or intends to prosecute that group of pentecostalists.

As to their departure from the USSR, this question can be considered in accordance with the procedure established under our laws and equally applicable to all Soviet citizens, after those persons return to the place of their residence.

However, the group of the sect members that happened to be in the US Embassy is being pushed for some reason or another in a different direction - toward violation of the Soviet laws, setting forth prior conditions and all sorts of demands that can lead only to an impasse. Thus, the entire responsibility for the existing situation rests with the US side, including the responsibility of humanitarian nature.

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We are not the ones to be called upon to exercise humaneness. For that matter, the references to humaneness are not convincing, while, in fact, attempts are being made to manipulate the destinies of individuals and not only those of the sect members who are kept in the US Embassy.

What kind of humaneness can one invoke, when the children are forcefully separated from their parents, as is the case with the Soviet citizens Polovchaks? Indeed, when even an American court rules to return Vladimir Polovchak - a minor - to his parents and the US executive authorities are raising obstacles thereto, it is not simply inhumane but immoral.

I would like to believe that on the part of the US side necessary measures will be taken to discontinue the abnormal situation existing around the group of Soviet citizens who find themselves in the US Embassy in Moscow.

Sincerely,

L. Brezhnev

January 21, 1982