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WITHDRAWAL SHEET

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Collection Name CHUMACHENKO, KATHERINE: FILES

Withdrawer

KDB 5/25/2006

File Folder USSR: RELIGION/HR

FOIA

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DOC NO	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
1	MEMO	CHUMACHENKO TO JUANITA DUGGAN RE HUMAN RIGHTS AT MOSCOW SUMMIT (PAGE 1 CLOSED IN WHOLE, PAGE 2 IN PART)	2	7/26/1988	B6

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

- B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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ST. SERGIUS OF RADONEZH ORTHODOX CHURCH

A PARISH OF THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH ABROAD - JULIAN (OLD) CALENDAR
75 EAST 93rd STREET, NEW YORK CITY, N.Y. 10128
(212) 534-1601

July 24, 1988

Miss Katherine C. Chumachenko
The White House
Foreign Policy Liaison Office
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

*where to
file?*

Dear Kathy:

By way of refreshing your memory, it was I who spoke to you on the phone at the suggestion of our mutual friend, Mary Schwarz, concerning the fate of Father Deacon Vladimir Rusak last week. I am trying to get a resolution on the floor of the Republican National Convention which speaks to freedom for religious prisoners in the Soviet bloc in general and of Deacon Vladimir Rusak in particular. A copy of that resolution is enclosed with this letter.

Enclosed also with this letter is a copy of a letter sent to Paul Weyrich, President of the Free Congress Research and Education Foundation. This letter outlines the steps that I have taken thus far in my attempts to have the resolution brought to the convention floor along with my analysis of why I believe that it would also be a good move politically. What I am requesting of you is that you pass this information to a person within the Bush campaign who you believe may be helpful in this effort.

If you are ever in a position to do so, please pass on to the President my heartfelt thanks and appreciation for his work on behalf of prisoners of conscience in the Soviet bloc and my appreciation for his bringing world attention to this most serious problem. Many people feel the same as I.

Thank you for your good work and, if you get a chance, please keep me informed of any progress in this matter.

Very truly yours in Christ,
Mark Warren Carlstedt

Mark Warren Carlstedt

*Russian
Orth*

Proposed Resolution for the Republican National Convention:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS President Reagan made human rights a priority issue in the Summit meetings conducted within the last year between himself and Soviet General Secretary Gorbachev, and

WHEREAS more than two-hundred known prisoners continue to languish in Soviet prisons for no reason other than their religious beliefs and among those prisoners of conscience Russian Orthodox Deacon Vladimir Rusak toils in a Soviet labor camp having been sentenced to seven years imprisonment at hard labor to be followed by five years banishment because he wrote a truthful history of the Russian Orthodox Church since the Communist revolution of 1917,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Republican National Party hereby reaffirms its commitment to the ideal of religious freedom for all human beings and supports the efforts of our President to secure the release of all prisoners of conscience presently held in Soviet prisons, mental institutions and places of exile, beginning with Deacon Vladimir Rusak and extending to all people: Christians, Jews, Moslems and any and all people of faith and reaffirms our commitment to the ideal that religious freedom is a basic human right.

ST. SERGIUS OF RADONEZH ORTHODOX CHURCH

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75 EAST 93rd STREET, NEW YORK CITY, N.Y. 10128

(212) 534-1601

July 24, 1988

Mr. Paul Weyrich, President
Free Congress Research and Education Foundation
721 Second Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

Dear Paul:

This will confirm receipt of your letter of July 11th and is to thank you for your offer of assistance in the matter of Father Deacon Vladimir Rusak in particular and persecution of Christians in the Soviet bloc in general. With the assistance of some people, I have done a few things regarding this issue and I think that your assistance in some follow-up work may be of great help.

During the week of July 17th to the 24th, New Jersey State Assembly Speaker Chuck Hardwick, who is Vice-Chairman of the Republican National Platform Committee, conducted local meetings in Passaic and Bergen Counties to gain insight into the issues from Republican leaders as well as ordinary Republican party members. I, along with some others, including a young lady who is a member of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese (the same church which Dukakis nominally belongs to), spoke on the issue of Fr. Deacon Vladimir Rusak and religious persecution in the Soviet bloc. I gave Speaker Hardwick a copy of a proposed resolution for the Republican National Convention (copy enclosed) which I had drafted. The resolution is brief and speaks directly to the issue raised here.

In my humble opinion, it would make good political sense for the Republican Party to adopt this resolution and include it in the platform for several reasons: it offends no one; it reminds people of a victory of the administration (President Reagan's success in bringing attention to the human rights issue during the Summit Meetings of the last year which were generally perceived as successful); it offers the Republican Party an opportunity to seize an issue ignored by the Democratic Party which should be part of their platform since their presidential candidate is nominally an Orthodox Christian; it would force the status of Gov. Dukakis within the Greek Orthodox Church to the forefront, which he is desperately trying to avoid; aside from Orthodox Christians interested in this issue, there are also millions of Polish, Ukrainian, Magyar and other Catholics as well as Catholics and Protestants with origins in the Baltic states and Fundamentalist Protestants who have a keen interest in this issue and a positive stand has the potential of translating into millions of votes on election day, and; it reaffirms in the minds of voters

that the Republican Party is conscious of the dangers of communism. It is also the right and decent thing to do. If attention is brought to any prisoner of conscience, that prisoner becomes a liability and he has a much better chance of winning freedom from prison. Imagining the name Vladimir Rusak flashed on television screens around the world from the Republican convention. The Soviets wouldn't be able to get him out of jail fast enough.

Any help you may be able to provide in getting this resolution to floor during the Republican National Convention would be appreciated, especially by our imprisoned Christian brethren. As I originally requested, please try to get the case some national attention by placing it in a syndicated newspaper or magazine column.

Please give my love and best wishes to everyone. Holy Transfiguration parish, its clergy and members are in my prayers daily. And again, thank you.

Very truly yours in Christ

Warren Mark Carlstedt

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2. Religious Liberty

The question of religious freedom was foremost on our agenda. Both in high-level meetings (Reagan-Gorbachev, Shultz-Shevardnadze) and working-level meetings, general issues such as religious education, access to religious literature, religious prisoners, laws limiting religious activity and restrictions on charitable work were discussed. Specific issues raised were the legalization of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, and repression of Hare Krishnas, Lithuanian Catholics and unregistered Baptists and Pentecostals.

A few days prior to the Moscow Summit, the Hare Krishnas were registered and promised a place of worship. In the past year, many more Bibles have been permitted to enter the Soviet Union, and some charitable work is now allowed. In July, the heads of the Russian Orthodox Church met in Finland with Vatican representatives to discuss the issue of the banned Ukrainian Catholic Church.

While the U.S. has welcomed these positive movements, the administration feels strongly that there is still a long way to go before we can say there is religious freedom in the USSR. The USG will continue to press for more religious liberty.

3. Emigration and Family Visits

The vast majority of Soviet emigres fall into three ethnic groups: Jews, Germans and Armenians. In recent months, however, a relatively larger number of Pentecostals have also been allowed to emigrate. Also, many relatives of U.S. citizens (Ukrainians, Balts, Russians, etc.) have been allowed to travel for brief visits to the U.S.