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WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name KOJELIS, LINAS J.: FILES

Withdrawer

JMN 11/28/2018

File Folder HUMAN RIGHTS: ICELAND 10/07/1986

FOIA

F05-0006/03

Box Number 18283

JOHANNESSEN

16

DOC NO	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
1	LIST	ATTENDEES	1	10/7/1986	B6
2	LIST	ATTENDEES	1	ND	B6
3	LIST	REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENTS	1	10/7/1986	B6
4	LIST	REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENTS	1	10/7/1986	B6
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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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B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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

Press

Blumel ✓

Maxwell ✓

H. Clive ✓

Kennedy ✓

Burkhalter ✓

Arums ✓

Sussman ✓

Goodman ✓

Meek ✓

Bubstein ✓

Leferie ✓

Hoerlein ✓

May ✓

Yarim Hagayer ✓

Mrs O. ✓

Abram ✓

Mari ✓

Hill ✓

Fitzpatrick ✓

President ✓

Turk ✓

Schultz ✓

Schiffen ✓

Hickey ✓

Orlov ✓

Regan ✓

Razell ✓

Rugnicinski

Baltak ✓

Potindexte

Raymond ✓

Gordon

Canavan ✓

Pat B.

Mandel ✓

Dugan

Kalms ✓

Francis

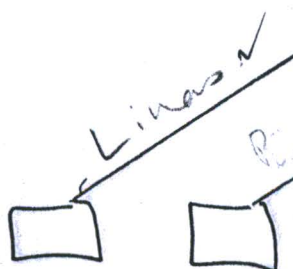
Carl A ✓

Rutherford ✓

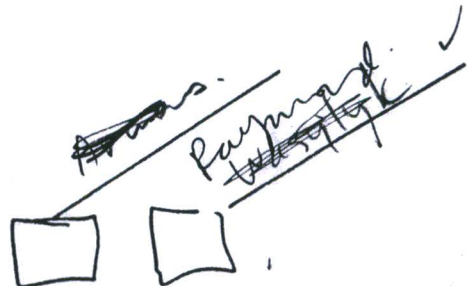
Volentas ✓

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Oral Office



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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 7, 1986

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN MEETING WITH
HUMAN RIGHTS LEADERS

The Cabinet Room

3:42 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: I have a few remarks here. I welcome this opportunity to talk with you about a most important subject of my upcoming meeting with General Secretary Gorbachev: human rights. And I know your interest in that. And with me, as you know, is Yuri Orlov and Mrs. Orlov. Yuri is a founding member of the Independent Soviet Helsinki Monitoring Group, a man who has done more to inform the world of current Soviet human rights violations than any man on Earth. As I said yesterday, a hero for our time.

The West owes him a profound debt, both for his courage and fortitude under unspeakable conditions, and for reminding us how precious are the freedoms that we sometimes take for granted.

As you all know, there has been much speculation that our upcoming meeting in Reykjavik will focus on arms control. But true peace requires respect for human rights and freedom as well as arms control.

We go to Iceland in pursuit of peace. But it's important that the world and our adversaries understand that we Americans -- what we mean when we speak of peace. Peace is not simply an absence of war, it's the presence of justice -- and human rights, human freedom are its indispensable elements. These fundamental values and beliefs are matters on which we Americans cannot and will not compromise. So our agenda for the Reykjavik meeting will deal not only with arms reductions, but Soviet human rights violations, military intervention by the Soviets and their proxies in regional conflicts and broadening contacts between our two peoples.

This meeting is not to sign agreements, but to prepare the way for a productive summit. A real improvement in the Soviet Union's human rights record is essential for such a summit. We will not sacrifice fundamental principles or vital U.S. interests to get a summit. I'll make it amply clear to Mr. Gorbachev that unless there is real Soviet movement on human rights, we will not have the kind of political atmosphere necessary to make lasting progress on other issues.

And there is much room for improvement. The religious persecution, long divided families, suppression of emigration and harassment of ethnic and cultural activists. We are realistic about the Soviet Union and have no illusions about the difficulty of making progress on these key issues. But I see no alternative to our twin policy of strength and dialogue.

And again, thank you all for being here.

Q Mr. President, did Mr. Orlov tell you anything of significance in your meeting just now?

THE PRESIDENT: We have just had a few moments -- few minutes together before coming in here and we have said the things I think you would expect us to say.

Q Did he tell you what he would like you to tell

MORE

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Gorbachev? (Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: No. He spoke of wanting to carry on the work that he was carrying on there -- to continue to strive for freedom and his goals are very much those of the people around this table already.

Q Mr. President --

END

3:47 P.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 6, 1986

MEETING WITH HUMAN RIGHTS LEADERS

DATE: October 7, 1986

LOCATION: Cabinet Room

TIME: 3:30 p.m.

FROM: MARI MASENG, OPL
RODNEY MCDANIEL, NSC

I. PURPOSE

To advise U.S. human and religious rights leaders on your goals for the Iceland meeting with Mr. Gorbachev.

II. BACKGROUND

Our goal for the meeting between you and Mr. Gorbachev in Iceland, just as it was last November, is to promote a broad, four-part agenda: arms control, regional conflicts, bilateral issues and human rights. The Soviets, on the other hand, wish to turn these meetings exclusively into arms control forums. We have invited representatives of groups which have worked for human rights and religious freedom in the U.S.S.R. to provide you an opportunity to clarify your goals at the Iceland meeting on human rights issues. The meeting will also signal the American public and the Soviet leadership that we are committed to raising the human rights issue, as part of our broad agenda, in Iceland.

III. PARTICIPANTS : Tab A

IV. PRESS PLAN: Wire service photographers only

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

You enter Cabinet Room, take your place at the table, make opening remarks and then open to Q&A. After the meeting, you will shake hands and pose for photographs with guests as they depart.

Attachment: Tab A -- Participants

Talking points from NSC

Coordination: NSC (J. Mandel)

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10/7 12:00 noon

PARTICIPANTS

U.S. Government

- ✓ POTUS
- ✓ Secretary George Shultz, Department of State
- ✓ Patrick Buchanan, Director of Communications
- ✓ Richard Schifter, Asst. Secty. of State for Human Rights
- ✓ Peter Rodman, Deputy Assistant to the President, NSC
- ✓ Jack Matlock, Senior Director for Europe, NSC
- ✓ Mari Maseng, Director, Office of Public Liaison
- ✓ Linas Kojelis, Special Assistant for Public Liaison
- ✓ Carl Anderson, Special Assistant for Public Liaison
- ✓ Max Green, Associate Director, Office of Public Liaison
- ✓ Judyt Mandel, Deputy Director, Intl. Communication, NSC
- ✓ John Purnell, Office of Soviet Affairs, Department of State
- ✓ Galina Tunik, Interpreter, Department of State

Human and Religious Rights Representatives

- ✓ Yuri Orlov
- ✓ Irina Valitova, wife of Yuri Orlov
- ✓ Morris Abram, President, National Conference on Soviet Jewry
- ✓ Zinta Arums, Joint Baltic American National Committee
- ✓ Bishop Antanas Baltakis, Bishop of Lithuanian Catholics in America
- ~~✓ Dr. James M. Boice, Tenth Presbyterian Church~~
- ✓ Morris Bubstein, Chairman, Scientists for Sakharov, Orlov, Sharansky
- ✓ Holly Burkhalter, Helsinki Watch
- ✓ Martin Canavan, Ukrainian Catholic Fraternal Order
- ✓ Dr. Robert P. Dugan, Jr., Director, Office of Public Affairs, National Association of Evangelicals
- ✓ Jerry Goodman, Executive Director, National Conference on Soviet Jewry
- ✓ Dr. Ernest Gordon, Director, CREED
- ✓ Archbishop James Hickey, Washington, D.C.
- ✓ Kent R. Hill, Institute for Religion and Democracy
- ✓ Malcolm Hoenlein, Executive Director of Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations
- ✓ Eugene Iwanciw, Washington Representative, Ukranian National Association
- ✓ Ojars Kalnins, Executive Director, American Latvian Assn.
- ✓ Dr. D. James Kennedy, Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church
- ✓ Edward Kline, Helsinki Watch
- ✓ Dr. Ernest Lefever, Ethics in Public Policy Institute
- ~~✓ Elder Neil Maxwell, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints~~
- ✓ Paul Meek, International Parliamentary Group for Human Rights in the Soviet Union
- ✓ Casimir Pugevicius, Director, Lithuanian Catholic Religious Services
- ✓ Patricia Rengel, Amnesty International

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- ✓ ~~Dr. Adrian Rogers, President, Southern Baptist Convention~~
- ✓ William De Jarnette Rutherford, Bishop of Anglican American Church
- ✓ Leonard Sussman, Freedom House
- ✓ Vytas Volertas, President-elect, Lithuanian-American Community, Inc.
- ✓ Myron Wasyluk, Director, Ukrainian National Information Service
- ✓ Yuri Yarim-Agayev, Center for Democracy

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 6, 1986

MEETING WITH HUMAN RIGHTS LEADERS

DATE: October 7, 1986

LOCATION: Cabinet Room

TIME: 3:30 p.m.

FROM: MARI MASENG, OPL

RODNEY McDANIEL, NSC

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Robert Blut, Past President of the United Jewish Appeal and
Co-Chairman of the Campaign to the Summit
Malcolm Hoenlein, Executive Director of Conference of
Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations
Jerry Goodman, Executive Director, National Conference on
Soviet Jewry
Shoshana Cardon, President of Council on Soviet Jewry,
Federation of Jewish Philanthropies
Archbishop James Hickey, Washington, D.C.
Bishop Pranas Baltakis, Bishop of Lithuanian Catholics in
America
Martin Canavan, Ukrainian Catholic Fraternal Order
Juhan Simonson, Estonian American National Council
Ojars Kalnins, Executive Director, American Latvian Assn.
Ignatius Billinsky, President, Ukrainian Congress Committee
of America
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Paul Meek, International Parliamentary Group for Human
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Dr. Ernest Lefever, Ethics in Public Policy Institute
James Finn, Freedom House
Robert Bernstein, Helsinki Watch
Tom Kahn, AFL-CIO
Valentin Turchin, former member of Moscow Helsinki Watch
Group
Dr. Robert P. Dugan, Jr., Director, Office of Public
Affairs, National Association of Evangelicals
Elder Neil Maxwell, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day
Saints
Patricia Rengel, Amnesty International

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 9, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR ROZANNE RIDGWAY, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
EUROPEAN AND CANADIAN AFFAIRS

FROM: LINAS KOJELIS, ^{LK}SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
FOR PUBLIC LIAISON

SUBJECT: Iceland Agenda: Prisoners of Conscience

I am forwarding for your attention, copies of correspondence from our Russian, Ukrainian, and Lithuanian constituent groups urging the President to consider their lists of political prisoners at the upcoming summit in Iceland. Your immediate consideration of the attached appeals would be greatly appreciated.

Please note that the list from the Lithuanian Information Center was hand delivered by Bishop Baltakis to the President during the Human Rights Meeting on October 7.

cc: Jack Matlock, NSC

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Lithuanian Information Center

LIETUVIŲ INFORMACIJOS CENTRAS

351 Highland Blvd., Brooklyn NY 11207-9195, USA Tel. 718 647-2434

October 7, 1986

THE LITHUANIAN HELSINKI GROUP

The Lithuanian Public Group to Promote Observance of the Helsinki Accords was formed on November 25, 1976 by five persons of quite varied backgrounds who represented a broad spectrum of Lithuanian dissent:

The Reverend Karolis Garuckas, a Catholic priest; Eitan Finkelstein, a Jewish refusenik; Ona Lukauskaite-Poskiene, a leftist poet; Viktoras Petkus, a Catholic dissident and Tomas Venclova, the son of a prominent Soviet Lithuanian writer.

In the seven years of its existence the group sought to implement the goals of the Helsinki Final Act, but its success was limited by the actions of the Soviet authorities. Nonetheless, the group became a symbol of Lithuanian dissent.

Tomas Venclova was allowed to leave Lithuania for a teaching assignment at the University of California only two months after the formation of the Lithuanian Helsinki group. In 1977, he was stripped of his Soviet citizenship. The arrest of Petkus reduced the membership of the Lithuanian Helsinki group to three.

Several noted dissidents, Balys Gajauskas and Vytautas Skuodis, asked to be made members of the group even though they were imprisoned and could not participate actively in its work.

In January 1979, the Rev. Bronius Laurinavicius, joined the Lithuanian Helsinki Group, replacing Fr. K. Garuckas, who had died of cancer. In November of that year, Algirdas Statkevicius, a physician, and Mecislovas Jurevicius, a worker, also joined the group. In 1980, Statkevicius was arrested and confined in a psychiatric hospital. Engineer Vytautas Vaiciunas was added to the group in 1981, but he and Jurevicius were arrested shortly afterwards on March 25, 1981. On November 25, 1981, Laurinavicius died in a traffic accident that was thought to have been engineered by the KGB: he was pushed by four men, in full view of eyewitnesses, into the path of an oncoming truck. This left Lukauskaite-Poskiene as the sole active member. The fact that her health was very

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poor may have helped her to escape imprisonment.

However, unlike the Moscow Helsinki group, which announced its disbandment on September 8, 1982, the Lithuanian group simply disappeared as a result of arrests, deaths and emigration. On December 4, 1983, Ona Lukauskaite-Poskiene, the last fully active member of the group, died at the age of seventy-six, and on December 18, Eitan Finkelstein, another founding member, emigrated to Israel. With that, no more members of the group remained at liberty in Lithuania.

Altogether the Lithuanian Helsinki group had eleven members. Over the years, it issued numerous documents and signed many major protest statements calling attention to human rights violations.

Some of the group's functions were later taken over by the Catholic Committee for the Defense of Believers' Rights, which was founded on November 13, 1978, by five priests. But with the arrests of its two leading members, Fathers Alfonsas Svarinskas and Sigitas Tamkevicius, and the unremitting threats against the remaining members, the Catholic Committee was forced to go underground in 1984.



Lithuanian Information Center

LIETUVIŲ INFORMACIJOS CENTRAS

351 Highland Blvd., Brooklyn NY 11207-9195, USA Tel. 718 647-2434

October 7, 1986

THE CATHOLIC COMMITTEE FOR THE DEFENSE OF BELIEVERS' RIGHTS

In 1983, the Catholic Committee for the Defense of Believers' Rights was one of the few remaining dissident bodies unbroken by the Soviet crackdown on unofficial monitoring groups. The arrests of charter members, Fathers Alfonsas Svarinskas and Sigitas Tamkevicius, however, and a series of threats by Soviet authorities against its remaining members forced the Committee underground later that year. The former members of the Catholic Committee, nonetheless, continue to be persecuted.

After being summoned under false pretenses to attend a sick parishioner on the night of August 22, 1985, Fr. Vaclovas Stakenas, was attacked by two men and left bound and gagged in a forest outside the town of Krokialaukis.

The death of Fr. Juozas Zdebskis on February 5, 1986 was no accident, according to the samizdat Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania. The "collision was not accidental, but a carefully planned and executed act of violence". Zdebskis had been under KGB surveillance for more than 20 years. Subjected to threats and sentenced twice, the Lithuanian priest had several other close brushes with death under suspicious circumstances.

ADDRESS: (Fr.) Leonas Kalinauskas, 235036 Josvainiai,
Kedainiu r., Lithuania, USSR

BIRTHDATE: September 7, 1925

ORDINATION DATE: December 19, 1948

FEASTDAY: November 10

ADDRESS: (Fr.) Jonas Kauneckas, 235610 Telsiai, Pionieriu 51
Lithuania, USSR

BIRTHDATE: June 6, 1938

ORDINATION DATE: May 22, 1977

FEASTDAY: June 24

ADDRESS: (Fr.) Algimantas Keina, 234645 Valkininkai, Varenos
Lithuania, USSR

BIRTHDATE: February 21, 1937

ORDINATION DATE: April 18, 1962

FEASTDAY: January 23

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ADDRESS: (Fr.) Vaclovas Stakenas, 234584 Krokialaukis, Alyta
Lithuania, USSR

BIRTHDATE: May 24, 1934

ORDINATION DATE: May 23, 1970

FEASTDAY: September 28

ADDRESS: (Fr.) Vincas Velavicius, 235915 Skaudvile, Taurages
Taurages 17, Lithuania, USSR

BIRTHDATE: February 18, 1914

ORDINATION DATE: April 16, 1938

FEASTDAY: September 27

(Fr.) Juozas Zdebskis, Deceased, February 5, 1986

ADDRESS: (Fr.) Kazimieras Zilyys, 234656 Nedinge, Varenos r.,
Lithuania, USSR

BIRTHDATE: March 4, 1945

ORDINATION DATE: April 17, 1973

FEASTDAY: March 4

IMPRISONED MEMBERS

CAMP ADDRESS: (Prof.) Vytautas Skuodis, 431200 Barashevo, Mo
ASSR, Tengushevsky r-n, uchr. ZhKh 385/3-5, USSR

BIRTHDATE: March 21, 1929

FEASTDAY: January 5

DATE OF ARREST: January 9, 1980

SENTENCING DATE: December 22, 1980

DATE OF RELEASE: 1992

CAMP ADDRESS: (Fr.) Alfonsas Svarinskas, 618263 Permskaya ob
Chusovskoi r-n, pos. Kuchino, uchr. VS-389/36, US

BIRTHDATE: January 21, 1925

ORDINATION DATE: October 3, 1954

FEASTDAY: August 1

DATE OF ARREST: January 26, 1983

SENTENCING DATE: May 6, 1983

DATE OF RELEASE: 1993

CAMP ADDRESS: (Fr.) Sigitas Tamkevicius, Permskaya obl.,
Chusovskoi r-n, pos. Polovinka, uchr. VS-389/37,

BIRTHDATE: November 7, 1938

ORDINATION DATE: April 18, 1962

FEASTDAY: July 31

DATE OF ARREST: May 6, 1983

SENTENCING DATE: December 2, 1983

DATE OF RELEASE: 1993

For more information on writing to prisoners of conscience, c
LITHUANIAN INFORMATION CENTER
351 Highland Blvd.
Brooklyn NY 11207

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IMPRISONED MEMBERS OF THE LITHUANIAN HELSINKI GROUP

CAMP ADDRESS: Viktoras Petkus, 618263, Permskaya OBL,
Chusovskoy r-n, pos. Kuchino, uchr. VS 389-36-1,
ARRESTED: August 23, 1977
TRIED: July 13, 1978
SENTENCED: 7 yrs. prison
3 yrs. special regime camp
5 yrs. exile
under Art. 68-2 and 70 LSSR code

CAMP ADDRESS: Balyš Gajauskas, (address as Viktoras Petkus)
ARRESTED: April 20, 1977
TRIED: April 14, 1978
SENTENCED: 10 yrs. special regimen camp
5 yrs. exile
under Art. 68 of LSSR criminal code

CAMP ADDRESS: Algirdas Statkevicius, 70058 U2B SSR, G. Tashkent,
uchr. UY2-64/12-1
ARRESTED: February 14, 1980
TRIED: (in absentia) 8/11/80
SENTENCED: to psychiatric treatment
indeterminate sentence

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Lithuanian Information Center

LIETUVIŲ INFORMACIJOS CENTRAS

351 Highland Blvd., Brooklyn NY 11207, USA Tel. 212 647-2434

October 7, 1986

CATHOLIC COMMITTEE FOR THE DEFENSE OF BELIEVERS' RIGHTS

On November 22, 1978, three priests - Alfonsas Svarinskas, Sigitas Tamkevicius and Juozas Zdebskis - announced at a press conference for foreign correspondents in Moscow that the Catholic Committee for the Defense of Believers' Rights had been set up in Lithuania on November 13th. The reporters were introduced to the five charter members of the Committee and its goals.

Below is the first Catholic Committee' appeal sent to Lithuania's bishops and Soviet authorities and handed out to the foreign correspondents.

"Since the end of World War II the bishops, priests and believers of Lithuania have often encountered religious discrimination. The situation of other believers in the Soviet Union is similar. Believers do not have the rights which atheists enjoy in the state. The Soviet Constitution only proclaims the freedom of religion, but even this limited freedom is often restricted in actual practice. Most of the laws which regulate the affairs of believers are inadequate for conditions in Lithuania and contradict not only the Soviet Constitution, but international USSR agreements as well.

"We Catholics have, therefore, resolved to found the Catholic Committee for the Defense of Believers' Rights which will strive to attain for Catholics rights equal to those of atheists. Through our activity we hope to help the faithful, and once the legal and practical equality of believers and atheists is achieved, the prestige of the Soviet Union in the Christian West will increase considerably.

"In striving toward this goal, we are resolved to_

- draw the attention of Soviet authorities to instances of discrimination against the Church and individual believers@

- inform Church officials, and if need be, society in general about the situation of believers in Lithuania and other Soviet Republics@ - seek that Soviet laws and their

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practical application, as regards the affairs of the Church and believers, not violate international USSR agreements@

- explain to priests and believers their rights and help defend them.

"The Catholic Committee for the Defense of Believers' Rights will act publicly and will not seek any political goals.

"Although the Committee will primarily concern itself with the defense of the rights of Catholics, it will also attempt to help other believers who appeal to it.

"The Catholic Committee for the Defense of Believers' Rights declares its solidarity with the defenders of human rights in the Soviet Union and throughout the world, and is determined to cooperate with all of them in defending human rights. We especially want to cooperate closely with the USSR Christian Committee for the Defense of Believers' Rights. We will consider this cooperation to be our modest contribution not only to the defense of human and religious rights, but also to the ecumenical movement.

"If any members of the Catholic Committee for the Defense of Believers' Rights cannot perform his duties, he will be immediately replaced by a candidate selected in advance.

"The Committee asks interested individuals to send their questions to any member of this Committee."

The appeal, which appeared in issue no. 35 of the Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania, was signed by founding members - Rev. Jonas Kauneckas, Rev. Alfonsas Svarinskas, Rev. Sigitas Tamkevicius, Rev. Vincas Velavicius and Rev. Juozas Zdebskis.

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Letter from Soviet-occupied Lithuania

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, RONALD REAGAN

My husband, Benedict SCOTT, a.k.a. Vytautas-Benediktas SKODZIUS, a.k.a. Vytautas SKUODIS, born on March 21, 1929 in Chicago, who resided and worked in Lithuania, was arrested in Vilnius on January 9, 1980 and sentenced that same year to many years of imprisonment for participating in the Lithuanian national movement for democratic freedoms. From that time began the persecution of his family: the constant surveillance, restrictions on correspondence, threats to myself and my eldest daughter Giedre to be discharged from work, and job discrimination against my youngest daughter, Daiva.

Finally, on April 2 of this year, I was threatened with prosecution, because I dared to say that I consider my husband Vytautas Skuodis an upright and conscientious person and because I fail to see that he has committed any crime against society, humanity or the state.

On the basis of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the UN General Assembly on December 10, 1948, and human rights agreements adopted by the UN General Assembly on December 16, 1966, I appeal to grant us:

Vytautas SKUODIS,
Irena SKUODIENE (born 1930 in Kaunas),
Giedre SKUODYTE (born 1957 in Vilnius),
Daiva SKUODYTE (born 1959 in Vilnius), and my mother
Sofija SARKIUNIENE (born 1901)

legal and diplomatic protection, and if necessary, residency in our country, my husband's land of birth.

With deep respect,

I. SKUODIENE

July 14, 1982

Translated by
LITHUANIAN INFORMATION CENTER
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Brooklyn NY 11207
tel. (718) 647-2434
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UKRAINIAN NATIONAL AID ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
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428781

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Telephone: 416-869-0687

PRESIDENT
WOLODYMYR MASUR

October 3, 1986

L Kopelias

The President
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of all Ukrainians in the metropolitan Chicago area and all cities in the United States of America and Canada, I wish to ask you, Mr. President that, during your summit meeting in Iceland with Mykail Gorbachev, the issue of releasing all Political Prisoners - namely - Yuri Shukewych, Lev Lukyanenko and Ivan Kandyba, be presented to him. These particular prisoners have been incarcerated for over twenty years only because they were standing up for Human Rights and protecting their country, Ukraine.

Your help in discussing this unfortunate matter would greatly be appreciated not only by me, but by all Ukrainians in U.S.A. and Canada.

Respectfully,

Wolodymyr Masur
Wolodymyr Masur
President- UNAAA

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CONGRESS OF RUSSIAN-AMERICANS, INC.

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

3133 North Wagner Road Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103
(313) 994-0879 or (313) 761-9210

October 6, 1986

- Truth is OUR Weapon -

The President
The White House

V. Politis, NHRC Chairman
D. Borodin, NHRC Co-Chairman

Dear Mr. President,

NHRC Regional Representatives

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I. Awtamonow
I. Dutikov
H. Ermolaev
V. Chouprakov
N. Gladishev
A. Gorbatshevich
W. Jurgens
A. Koeppe, Ph.D.
C. Kostukevich
I. Kulesha
V. Mantulin
M. Markof-Beliaeff
T. Pishenin
A. Selzew
V. ScheglowSKI
O. Schidlowsky, M.D.
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M. Somoff
H. Kovach-Tarakanoff, Ph.D.
Yu. Olkhovskiy, Ph.D.

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V. Zworykin, Ph.D., 1978
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S. Jaroff, 1981

As you prepare to go to Reykjavik for the pre-summit meeting with General Secretary Gorbachev, we want you to know that our thoughts are with you and we pray for your success and for your safe return home.

Since undoubtedly in these discussions the subject of human rights will come up, we take the liberty to bring to your attention the case of the foremost Russian Christian dissident IGOR OGURTSOV, the only dissident to be given and serve a twenty years sentence, who deserves to be first on the list of those for whom the United States requests emigration from the Soviet Union.

A devout Christian, Ogurtsov saw clearly that salvation from communism will come only through the return to Christian values. So in 1964 he founded in Leningrad the Christian-Social Movement, which attracted many young Russian intellectuals. Soviet punishment was crushing. Ogurtsov received in 1967 an unprecedented 20-years sentence: Seven years in prison, eight years in hard labor concentration camps and five years of internal exile. On February 9, 1987, Igor will complete the twentieth year of his sentence.

In recognition of Ogurtsov's significance in the dissident movement both the United States Senate and the House of Representatives unanimously passed resolutions (S.Res.294 and H.Res.76) requesting our Administration and the Soviet authorities to assist Igor Ogurtsov and his parents in getting Soviet permission to emigrate from the U.S.S.R. and come to the U.S.A., where they have relatives.

We are afraid that, fearing Ogurtsov's leadership qualities, the Soviet authorities may extend his sentence. It is most urgent, therefore, that every effort be made to assist Igor Ogurtsov, now in bad health (classified even by the Soviets as Invalid II Degree) and in dire need of medical care, leave the Soviet Union with his parents as soon as possible.

We are in contact with the Ogurtsovs and with this letter we are conveying to you, Mr. President, their desperate plea for your help. The mother of Igor Ogurtsov turns to you with these words: "Dear President Reagan, you are our only hope! Please help our only son, who for the past twenty years has endured so much though he committed no crime. My son is sick, needs medical treatment, needs us, and most of all needs freedom. We, Igor's parents, who have suffered every hour of our son's imprisonment beg you to help us. We are desperate, we are old and sick, we are helpless! Please help us and our son to receive emigration permission from the Soviet government and join our relatives in the U.S.A.! You are in our prayers!"

Respectfully yours,

Vera Politis
Vera Politis/Chairman

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VP:h1



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- 1979 — A. Tolstoy, Ph.D. †
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- 1980 — V. Leontief, Ph.D.
Nobel laureate
- 1981 — S. Jaroff †
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- 1983 — A. Danikova
Prima ballerina assoluta
- 1985 — M. Rostropovich
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October 3, 1986

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The President
The White House
Washington, District of Columbia 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the CRA Board of Directors, our members, and the entire Russian-American community, I respectfully request that you ask Mr. Gorbachev to free Igor Ogurtsov at your upcoming meeting.

At this moment I. Ogurtsov is completing almost 20 years of Soviet prison, hard-labor camps, and internal exile -- he has been imprisoned for his Christian beliefs since 1967. Unless the KGB extends his exile, he will be "free" in four months.

In spite of the fact that in June 1984 the Senate unanimously passed a resolution #294 expressing "the sense of the Senate that the Soviet Union should allow Igor Ogurtsov to be released from internal exile and allowed to emigrate to the West without renouncing his views," Soviets refuse to let him go (an identical resolution was passed by the House in December 1985).

Mr. President, we are pleading with you to exercise your personal influence and convince Mr. Gorbachev to set I. Ogurtsov free.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter N. Budzilovich
President

PNB:cb
Enclosures

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IGOR V. OGURTSOV

born August 22, 1937 in Stalingrad (now Volgograd)
moved to Leningrad at an early age.

Parents: father - a naval architect, was a major
in the Navy during the World War II.

mother - a pianist

education: graduated from the Univ. of Leningrad
majoring in: Far and Near Eastern Studies

sports: an athlete, an excellent swimmer & fencer

interests: philosophy, political science
history, economics

arts: studied architecture, art and music
a pianist, sometimes composed music

languages: speaks several languages

marital status: single Religion: Christian

social activities: founder of the Berdyaev Group
in Leningrad; also called VSKhSON - All-Russia
(i.e. National) Social-Christian Union for the
liberation of the people. Existed from 1964-1967.

Arrested: February 15, 1967

tried and accused of: "treason" & "anti-soviet"
activities

sentenced to: TWENTY years

membership of VSKhSON: 30 members, 30 candidates
at the time of arrest: and some 30 to become candidates

activities of VSKhSON prior to arrest of 21 members:
gathering, studying and disseminating of
religio-philosophical literature; recruiting
new members.

background of VSKhSON members: representatives of
humanities and technical intelligentsia of
Leningrad, Moscow and other cities of the Soviet
Union. Quite a number of them were students &
professors of the University of Leningrad.

Ogurtsov - is the only remaining VSKhSON member,
still imprisoned. Classified II degree
invalid, he suffers from anemia, ear infection,
complete exhaustion, chronic avitaminosis, de-
calcification of bones, hypertension, liver mal-
function

U.S. Senate action: S. Res. 294 unanimously adopted,
on June 27, 1984. It deals with Igor Ogurtsov's
plight and his right to emigrate together with
his parents. It also calls upon our Government
and the President to intervene with the Soviet
leadership on Ogurtsovs' behalf.

A similar H. Res. 76 is pending in the House.

IN THE NAME OF HUMANITY. and IN THE NAME OF GOD

Write to the Soviet leaders in Moscow, USSR, and
request release from exile and emigration of Igor
Ogurtsov together with his parents.

Printed by:

Human Rights Committee - Congress of Russian-Americans

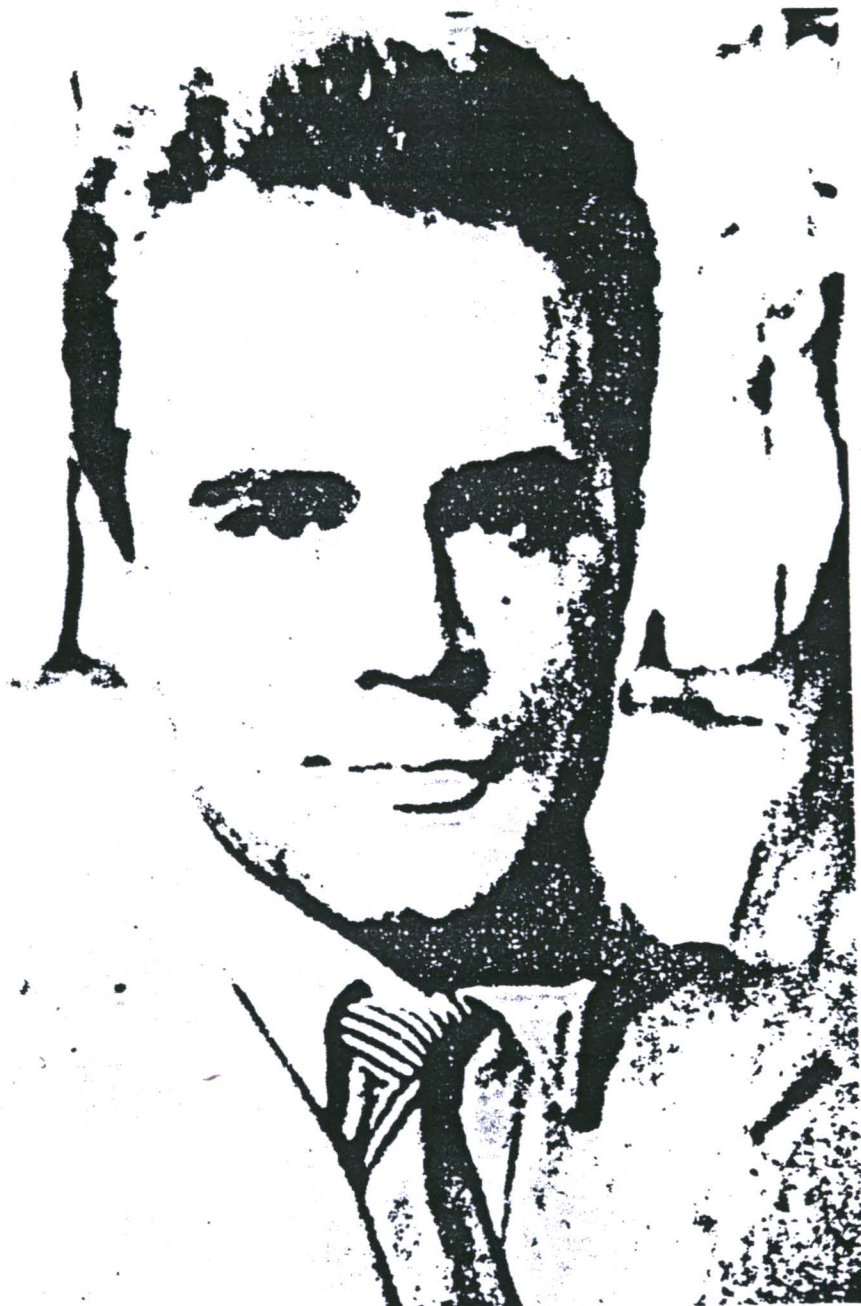
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(address all inquiries to the above)

Otrada, Inc. - The Society of Russian-Americans

385 South Pascack Road, Spring Valley, New York 10977

The Committee for the Defense of Persecuted Orthodox Christians
P.O. Box 9669, Washington, D.C. 20016

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SAVE IGOR OGURTSOV, RUSSIAN CHRISTIAN DISSIDENT! IN SOVIET PRISON SINCE 1967!

OGURTSOV'S "CRIME" - Founding of VSKhSON, a Social Christian movement, whose lofty aims were the pursuit of basic human rights and restoration of Christian ethical principles and their incorporation into politics, economics and culture of Soviet Russia. The group's practical activity during its 3 years of existence (1964-1967) consisted almost entirely in the recruitment of new members and the duplication and distribution of religious philosophical literature.

OGURTSOV'S CHARGE - "Treason"

OGURTSOV'S SENTENCE - 20 Years Imprisonment

AFTER YEARS OF PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL ABUSE, I. OGURTSOV DESPERATELY NEEDS OUR HELP !

After seven years in prison and eight years in strict regime concentration camps, Igor Ogurtsov is serving his last five years of exile. His address there is: USSR, KOMI-ASSR, Ust-Vymski rayon, 169060 pos. Mikun, do.vostrebovanja

Ogurtsov's parents: Evghenia M. Derevenskova (mother)
Viacheslav V. Ogurtsov (father)
USSR, 198035 Leningrad
ul. Dvinskaya, d.11, kv.28

"Igor Ogurtsov has become a symbol throughout the world of struggle for human rights against arbitrariness and illegality."

Academician A.D. Sakharov
in an open letter to Breshnev (10/24/74).

"During these current months Igor Ogurtsov, a prominent son of the Russian People who sought the development of Russia by Christian means is irreversibly approaching death. He has already served more than 12 years of uninterrupted severe imprisonment under a merciless regime - and still 8 more years loom before him, a term he will not be able to survive."

Alexander Solzhenitsyn

Statement for delivery at the Coalition for a Democratic Majority Friends of Freedom Dinner (6/12/79).

"Human Rights are threatened more and more not only by newest concepts of collectivized freedoms which annihilate the very meaning of individuality, but also by doubtful and ever growing indifference of democracies to their own intrinsic values. Igor Ogurtsov reminds us of them, is suffering for them - for all of us. He is the affirmation of this spirit. We cannot let him die."

Pierre Emmanuel

French Philosopher and Writer

"Our son is dying. He has reached the limit of human strength and will certainly not withstand the remaining 8 years, if he is not helped immediately. If help and medical treatment will not come in time, we will loose our only son."

E.M. Derevenskova

(Ogurtsov's Mother)

Her appeal through Samizdat to the International Association of Physicians.

SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS FOR MEETING WITH
HUMAN RIGHTS LEADERS

- There has been much speculation in the press that my meeting with Mr. Gorbachev in Reykjavik will be primarily an arms control meeting.
- Let me assure you that our meeting cannot focus on peace, unless it also focuses on the issue of freedom and human rights.
- This meeting is not to sign agreements, but to prepare the way for a productive summit. A real improvement in the Soviet Union's human rights record is essential for such a summit.
- I will make it amply clear to Mr. Gorbachev that unless there is real Soviet movement on human rights, we will not have the kind of political atmosphere necessary to make lasting progress on other issues.
- And, there is much room for improvement. The list of issues is long; the persecution of Catholics, Orthodox, Christians and Jews, the painful issues of family reunification and emigration.
- Of course, sitting next to me is a man who is perhaps the leading expert on human rights. Mr. Orlov, perhaps you would like to say a few words to this distinguished group.
// Orlov makes remarks //
- Now, I would like to open up the meeting to you.

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