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PRESIDENTIAL REPLY

Code	Date	Comment	Form
C	_____	Time: _____	P- _____
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SIGNATURE CODES:

- CPn - Presidential Correspondence
 - n - 0 - Unknown
 - n - 1 - Ronald Wilson Reagan
 - n - 2 - Ronald Reagan
 - n - 3 - Ron
 - n - 4 - Dutch
 - n - 5 - Ron Reagan
 - n - 6 - Ronald
 - n - 7 - Ronnie

- CLn - First Lady's Correspondence
 - n - 1 - Nancy Reagan
 - n - 2 - Nancy
 - n - 3 -

- CBn - Presidential & First Lady's Correspondence
 - n - 1 - Ronald Reagan - Nancy Reagan
 - n - 2 - Ron - Nancy

MEDIA CODES:

- B - Box/package
- C - Copy
- D - Official document
- G - Message
- H - Handcarried
- L - Letter
- M - Mailgram
- O - Memo
- P - Photo
- R - Report
- S - Sealed
- T - Telegram
- V - Telephone
- X - Miscellaneous
- Y - Study

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 5, 1981

Dear Mr. Palmer:

President Reagan has asked me to thank you for your kind letter concerning the grain embargo on the Soviet Union. Your friendship and support are appreciated by both the President and myself. As we are faced with such difficult decisions in the future, we will do our best to warrant your faith in us.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL K. DEEVER
Assistant to the President
Deputy Chief of Staff

Mr. R. Martin Palmer, Jr.
21 Summit Avenue
Hagerstown, MD 21740

R. MARTIN PALMER, JR.

ATTORNEY AT LAW

LIBRARY PLACE

21 SUMMIT AVENUE

HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND 21740

(301) 790-0640

April 23, 1981

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The Honorable President Reagan
The White House
Washington, DC

Attention: Helene Von Damm

Dear President Reagan:

Clearly the grain embargo has been one of the most incisive and effective tools in dealing with the Soviet Union. Indeed, it has placed Russia in a checkmate position as to the prospect of invading Poland.

There is only one place on the face of the earth that the Soviet Union can get the quantity of grain that they need and that is the United States. They are confronted with the stark reality that a continued cut-off of U.S. grain will be economically disruptive and politically destabilizing.

There would seem to be two sides to the question of whether to lift or not to lift the grain embargo:

The first side says that Russia is not to be trusted and to lift the embargo would only enable them to regain their strength and continue their threat to world peace by moving from Afghanistan to the warm water ports of the Persian Gulf, as well as the apparent threat to Poland itself and world order.

The second side of the question says we have to consider the moral implications of our embargo since, in the end, it is individuals as well as the government of the Soviet Union that is being affected by the embargo. The argument is made that although Russia has behaved as a tyrant in its dealings with Afghanistan, and other communist states, nevertheless, we must attempt to deal with

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The Honorable President Reagan
April 23, 1981
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Russia in an honorable way and assuage any differences so as to assure world peace. Lifting the embargo or at least partially lifting the embargo would seem to answer this call.

Thus, we are confronted with two equally persuasive arguments. One for and the other against lifting the embargo. When all is said and done, there is only one person who can make the ultimate decision, that, of course, Mr. President, is you, our President.

May I respectfully proffer, Mr. President, that William Lloyd Garrison, a contemporary of Abraham Lincoln, once wrestled with a similar conflict of the human soul and resolved it this way:

"With reasonable men, I will reason; with humane men, I will plead; but to tyrants, I will give no quarter, nor waste arguments where they will certainly be lost."

Apparently he was telling us that to compromise or attempt to reason with a government such as the Soviet Union which oppresses its people and behaves as a tyrant, is inevitably folly.

The arguments on both sides of the question are compelling, and place the mind in a state of equipoise.

Yours very sincerely and respectfully,

R. Martin Palmer, Jr.

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P.S. Mr. President, I read in this morning's Washington Post your statement that not only do you hope that you get well, but you hope that the boy who fired the gun gets well also. That statement will surely assuage the Nation's grief over what has happened and places the whole matter in its proper perspective. Lincoln himself could not have said it more humanely or more nobly.