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WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name MATLOCK, JACK: FILES

Withdrawer

JET 5/17/2005

File Folder USSR-PENTACOSTALS 2/4

FOIA

F06-114/9

Box Number 30

YARHI-MILO

3007

ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
10596	MEMO	STEARMAN TO CLARK RE PRESIDENTIAL LETTER TO THE PENTECOSTALISTS <i>R 3/24/2011 F2006-114/9</i>	1	1/27/1982	B1
10599	CABLE	261851Z JAN 82 <i>R 3/24/2011 F2006-114/9</i>	2	1/26/1982	B1
10597	MEMO	CLARK TO PRESIDENT RE BREZHNEV'S ANSWER TO YOUR LETTER IN SUPPORT OF THE PENTECOSTALISTS IN EMBASSY MOSCOW <i>R 3/24/2011 F2006-114/9</i>	1	1/29/1982	B1
10600	MEMO	BREMER TO CLARK RE BREZHNEV'S ANSWER TO THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER IN SUPPORT OF THE PENTECOSTALISTS IN EMBASSY MOSCOW <i>R 3/24/2011 F2006-114/9</i>	1	1/22/1982	B1
10601	LETTER	UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION BREZHNEV TO PRESIDENT REAGAN <i>R 3/24/2011 F2006-114/9</i>	2	ND	B1
10602	MEMO	SAME TEXT AS DOC #10600 <i>R 3/24/2011 F2006-114/9</i>	1	ND	B1
10603	LETTER	SAME TEXT AS DOC #10601 <i>R 3/24/2011 F2006-114/9</i>	2	1/21/1982	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]

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

WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name MATLOCK, JACK: FILES

Withdrawer

JET 5/17/2005

File Folder USSR-PENTACOSTALS 2/4

FOIA

F06-114/9

Box Number 30

YARHI-MILO

3007

ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
10604	LETTER	PRESIDENT REAGAN TO BREZHNEV <i>R 3/24/2011 F2006-114/9</i>	1	ND	B1
10605	CABLE	171514Z FEB 82 <i>R 3/24/2011 F2006-114/9</i>	8	1/17/1982	B1
10606	CABLE	261408Z FEB 82 <i>PAR 3/24/2011 F2006-114/9</i>	3	2/26/1982	B6
10608	CABLE	161734Z NOV 82 <i>R 3/24/2011 F2006-114/9</i>	2	11/16/1982	B1
10598	MEMO	CLARK TO PRESIDENT REAGAN RE SOVIET MESSAGE ON EMBASSY PENTECOSTALISTS <i>R 3/24/2011 F2006-114/9</i>	1	ND	B1
10607	MEMO	SHULTZ TO PRESIDENT REAGAN RE SOVIET MESSAGE ON EMBASSY PENTACOSTALISTS <i>R 3/24/2011 F2006-114/9</i>	2	2/28/1983	B1

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

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- B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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

Pipes

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National Security Council The White House

Package # 0523

82 11/28 P 6:37

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	ACTION
John Poindexter	<u>1</u>	<u>JP</u>	
Bud McFarlane	<u>2</u>	<u>BM</u>	
Jacque Hill	<u>3</u>	<u>JH</u>	
Judge Clark	<u>4</u>	<u>JC</u>	<u>I</u>
John Poindexter			
Staff Secretary	<u>5</u>		
Sit Room			

I-Information A-Action

DISTRIBUTION

CY To VP	_____	Show CC	_____
CY To Meese	_____	Show CC	_____
CY To Baker	_____	Show CC	_____
CY To Deaver	_____	Show CC	_____

Other _____

COMMENTS

~~*[Handwritten signature]*~~

[Handwritten signature]

10596 MW²

MEMORANDUM

0523

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

INFORMATION

January 27, 1982

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

OBE

MEMORANDUM FOR WILLIAM P. CLARK

FROM: WILLIAM L. STEARMAN *WLS*

SUBJECT: Presidential Letter to the Pentecostals

The President's letter to the two hunger striking Pentecostals (Tab I) was received by Embassy Moscow after the two decided to resume taking liquids. The letter is being held in reserve and will not be read to them unless they again resort to a life-threatening abstention from liquids.

Attachment

Tab I President's letter to Pentecostals

cc: Richard Pipes
Michael Guhin

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Review on 1/27/88

DECLASSIFIED

NLRR E06-114/9 #10596

BY KML NARA DATE 4/7/2011

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
MESSAGE CENTER

PAGE 01 OF 02 SECSTATE WASHDC 0363 DTG: 261851Z JAN 82 PSN: 046950
EOB073 AN001226 TOR: 026/2050Z CSN: HCE256

DISTRIBUTION: LORD-01 PIPE-01 STER-01 CLEV-01 /004 A1
WHSR COMMENT: RED TAG

WHTS ASSIGNED DISTRIBUTION:
SIT: WPC MCF NAN JP VP SIT EOB
EOB:

OP IMMED
DE RUEHC #0363 0261904
O 261851Z JAN 82 ZFF6
FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE 0490
INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE 9956

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ STATE 020363

NODIS
GENEVA FOR AMB HARTMAN AND DAS SCANLAN
E. O. 12065: RDS-3 01/25/02 (HOLMES, H. ALLEN)

TAGS: SREF, SHUM, UR, US

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL LETTER TO THE PENTECOSTALISTS

REF: MOSCOW 869

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

2. PROVIDED BELOW IS THE TEXT OF THE LETTER THE
PRESIDENT HAS AUTHORIZED TO BE DELIVERED TO THE HUNGER
STRIKING PENTECOSTALISTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PLAN
OUTLINED IN REFTTEL.

3. BEGIN TEXT. DEAR AUGUSTINA AND LTDIYA:
I WANT YOU TO KNOW OF MY DEEP PERSONAL CONCERN FOR YOUR
HEALTH AND YOUR LIVES, WHICH NOW ARE PLACED IN EXTREME
JEOPARDY BY THE HUNGER STRIKE YOU HAVE UNDERTAKEN. MY
DISTRESS IS SHARED BY YOUR MANY OTHER FRIENDS AND
WELL-WISHERS HERE IN THE UNITED STATES AND ELSEWHERE
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, WHO JOTN ME IN URGING YOU TO
ABANDON THIS COURSE BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.

PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT YOU AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE
VASHCHENKO AND CHMYKHALOV FAMILIES ARE NOT ALONE AS YOU
PURSUE YOUR BRAVE AND DETERMINED EFFORT FOR
EMIGRATION. THOSE WHO WORK ON YOUR BEHALF, AND I HAVE
LONG COUNTED MYSELF AMONG THEM, ARE MANY, AND THEIR
EFFORTS ARE UNFLAGGING.

SINCE BECOMING PRESIDENT, I HAVE DIRECTED MY
ADMINISTRATION TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ASSIST YOU
IN REACHING YOUR GOAL. WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH
SOVIET OFFICIALS AT HIGH LEVELS TO SEEK RESOLUTION OF
THIS QUESTION. I REMAIN COMMITTED TO SEEKING YOUR
EMIGRATION, AS WELL AS THAT OF THE OTHER MEMBERS OF
YOUR FAMILY AND THE CHMYKHLOV FAMILY. I AM DETERMINED
TO CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS, AND AM HOPEFUL THAT A SOLUTION
CAN BE FOUND.

I ASK YOU NOT TO LOSE FAITH BUT TO TAKE HEART FROM THE
SINCERE COMMITMENT OF YOUR MANY SUPPORTERS. I URGE YOU

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DECLASSIFIED

NLRR-06-114/9 #10599

BY KML NARA DATE 4/7/2011

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
MESSAGE CENTER

PAGE 02 OF 02 SECSTATE WASHDC 0363 DTG: 261851Z JAN 82 PSN: 046950

TO ABANDON YOUR HUNGER STRIKE, AND TO CONTINUE YOUR
COURAGEOUS COURSE, A STRUGGLE THAT IS AN INSPIRATION TO
ALL WHO VALUE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND INDIVIDUAL HUMAN
RIGHTS. SINCERELY, RONALD REAGAN. END TEXT.
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

410 *Papas 3*
Pentecostals

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

10597
The President has seen _____

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

January 29, 1982

RR

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: WILLIAM P. CLARK *WPC*

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

Brezhnev's response to your message of January 15 petulantly rejects any responsibility for the fate of the Pentecostals 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 Pentecostals 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

DECLASSIFIED
NLRR E06-114/9 #10597
BY KML NARA DATE 4/7/2011

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

410



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

January 22 1982
02 22 P11:13

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR WILLIAM P. CLARK
THE WHITE HOUSE

WORLD
SITUATION ROOM

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

DECLASSIFIED

NLRR E06-114/9 #10600

BY KML NARA DATE 4/7/2011

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
GDS 1/22/88

DECLASSIFIED

10601 7

NLRR 06-114/9 *10601

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.

8

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

National Security Council
The White House

RECEIVED Package # 410

82 JAN 29 P 5: 04

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	ACTION
John Poindexter	_____	_____	_____
Bud McFarlane	_____	_____	_____
Jacque Hill	_____	_____	_____
Judge Clark	_____	_____	_____
John Poindexter	1 ✓ _____	_____	_____
Staff Secretary	2 _____	_____	_____
Sit Room	_____	_____	_____

I-Information A-Action

DISTRIBUTION

CY To VP	_____	Show CC	_____
CY To Meese	_____	Show CC	_____
CY To Baker	_____	Show CC	_____
CY To Deaver	_____	Show CC	_____

Other _____

COMMENTS

National Security Council
The White House

Package # 0410

82 11/27 11:39

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	ACTION
John Poindexter	<u>1</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	_____
Bud McFarlane	<u>2</u>	<u>M</u>	_____
Jacque Hill	<u>3</u>	<u>J</u>	_____
Judge Clark	<u>4</u>	_____	<u>A</u>
John Poindexter	<u>5</u>	_____	_____
Staff Secretary	_____	_____	_____
Sit Room	_____	_____	_____

I-Information A-Action

DISTRIBUTION

CY To VP	_____	Show CC	_____
CY To Meese	_____	Show CC	_____
CY To Baker	_____	Show CC	_____
CY To Deaver	_____	Show CC	_____

Other _____

COMMENTS

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

January 26, 1982

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR WILLIAM P. CLARK

FROM: RICHARD PIPES ^{RP}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 29, 1997
By CKS NARA, Date 7/29/02

WHSR
ROUTE SLIP

Time Stamp

82 JAN 22 P 9: 22

STAFF	C/O
Clark	
Nance	C
Colson	C
Poindexter	C
McFARLANE	C
NSC S/S	

WHITE HOUSE
SITUATION ROOM

of

Staff for action

C = Copy

O = Original

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
THE WHITE HOUSE

Package # _____

02 AUG 17

	<u>TO</u>	<u>SEEN</u>
JANET COLSON	_____	_____
BUD NANCE	_____	_____
JOHN POINDEXTER	_____	_____
JACQUE HILL	_____	_____
JUDGE CLARK	_____	_____
JANET COLSON	_____	_____

DISTRIBUTION

CY TO VP	_____	SHOW CC	_____
CY TO MEESE	_____	SHOW CC	_____
CY TO BAKER	_____	SHOW CC	_____
CY TO DEEVER	_____	SHOW CC	_____
OTHER	_____		

COMMENTS

MESSAGE RECEIPT
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

82 JAN 22 P 8: 10

B

S/S #

SECRET

MESSAGE NO. 01595 CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL No. Pages 3

FROM: L.P. Bremer, III S/S 22540 7224
(Officer name) (Office symbol) (Extension) (Room number)

MESSAGE DESCRIPTION Bremer-Clark re Brezhnev's Answer to the President's
Letter in Support of the Pentecostalists in Embassy 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]*

DECLASSIFIED
Department of State Guidelines, July 21, 1997
By CWS NARA, Date 7/29/02



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

10602

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

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

DECLASSIFIED

NLRR E016-114/9 *10602

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
GDS 1/22/88BY KML NARA DATE 4/7/2011

DECLASSIFIED

NLRR E06-114/9 *10603

16 10603
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.

7

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



S/S-8202230

PENTECOSTALS 18
624

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

02 JAN 29 1982 P10 45


January 29, 1982

STATE DEPT
SITUATION ROOM

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. WILLIAM P. CLARK
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Press Announcement and Guidance -
Hospitalization of Pentecostal
Hunger Striker

Following up the meeting at the White House on the question of the Pentecostals earlier this afternoon, attached is a proposed press announcement and set of Qs and As on the matter of hospitalization of the hunger strikers. Please note the revision to the proposed response on the question "Will the Soviets allow her to return to the Embassy?".


L. Paul Bremer, III
Executive Secretary

Attachments:

As Stated

FOR CONTINGENCY USE ONLY

PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT AND GUIDANCE

January 28, 1982

Hospitalization of Pentecostal Hunger Striker

This contingency press announcement and guidance is to be used ONLY if and when a Pentecostal Hunger Striker in Embassy Moscow is placed in a Soviet hospital.

PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT follows:

Today at () Lidiya Vashchenko was transferred from the American Embassy in Moscow to a Soviet hospital. She was accompanied to the hospital by the Embassy physician and a consular officer.

Lidiya Vashchenko and her mother, Augustina Vashchenko, had been on a liquids-only hunger strike since late December. On Saturday or Sunday (Jan 23-24) they began a total hunger strike; that is, no solid food and no liquids. On Tuesday, January 26, they informed the Embassy physician that they were going to return to a liquids-only diet. The Embassy and the Department have from the beginning been gravely concerned over the threat to the womens' health and their lives and did everything possible to persuade the Vashchenkos to cease their hunger strike. A parallel effort was made by leading supporters of the seven Pentecostalists in the United States and other countries. The matter has been repeatedly raised with Soviet authorities at high levels, focusing on the Vashchenkos' long-time desire to emigrate for reasons of religious freedom.

While these efforts were being made on their behalf, the

physical condition of the pair continued to be monitored carefully by the Embassy doctor. The primary objective of the Embassy has been and continues to be to safeguard the health, well-being and lives of the persons concerned. This objective was made clear to all members of the Vashchenko family from the outset of the hunger strike. In order to avoid a life-threatening situation from developing and in view of the limited medical facilities available to the Embassy, a determination was made that Lidiya Vashchenko had to be transferred to better equipped medical facilities.

Our Embassy asked the Soviet authorities to permit medical evacuation to a western country. This request was denied. Thus the Embassy had no alternative but to call for an ambulance to transfer Lidiya to a Soviet hospital. We have made it clear to the Soviet authorities that Lidiya Vashchenko will be welcome to rejoin her family in the Embassy upon her recovery and that we expect her to be allowed to do so.

The Embassy and the Department remain committed to assisting the Vashchenko and Chmykhalov families in their desire to emigrate and to practice their religion freely, and can only deplore the harsh, restrictive emigration policies of the Soviet Union that have brought about today's sad events.

Questions and Answers follow:

Q. Why was Lidiya Vashchenko moved out today? What was her state of health?

A. The Embassy acted to move Lidiya Vashchenko to a Soviet hospital when the Embassy physician judged it likely that irreversible damage to her body organs might soon occur.

Q. Who made the decision to move Lidiya Vashchenko?

A. The decision was made by the Principal Officer in accordance with standing Department of State authority to seek Soviet medical assistance for the Pentecostalists in the event of a medical emergency.

Q. Why was the decision made? Did you not want her to die in the Embassy?

A. The principal concern of the United States Government in the three and one half years that the Pentecostalists have resided in refuge in Embassy Moscow has been to preserve the health, safety and lives of the Vashchenkos and Chmykhalovs.

Q. Will the other Pentecostalists be removed from the Embassy as well?

A. If a determination is made that Mrs. Vashchenko is approaching a life-threatening situation, then the same reasoning that led us to transfer Lidiya to a hospital would apply for Augustina. In addition, we have made clear to all members of the Vashchenko and Chmykhalov families that, health permitting, they are welcome to remain in refuge in the Embassy.

Q. What hospital is Lidiya Vashchenko in?

22

A. (Tell if known).

Q. Will the Soviets allow her to return to the Embassy?

A. We have made it clear to the Soviets that Lidiya will be welcome to the Embassy once her health permits and that we expect them to allow her to do so. The Soviets have not given us a definitive reply.

Q. What efforts were made to stop the strike?

A. President Reagan sent a message to the hunger strikers underlining his support for their cause and urging them to give up the strike. In addition, the Embassy physician, Embassy officers and prominent Americans, including former President Carter, appealed to the two hunger strikers to end their strike. The Embassy also facilitated contact between the families and their numerous supporters in the West so that family friends could add their voice to the calls for an end to the strike.

Q. What diplomatic contacts were made on the Pentecostalists' behalf?

A. Secretary Haig raised the issue of the Pentecostalists' desire to emigrate with Foreign Minister Gromyko at their meeting in Geneva on January 26. Other numerous diplomatic contacts with the Soviets were made at high levels on the Pentecostalists' behalf. We do not believe it would serve the interests of the Vashchenkos and the Chmykhalovs to characterize these diplomatic contacts, which continue and will continue until a resolution of this problem is found.

FOR CONTINGENCY USE ONLY

PRESS GUIDANCE

January 29, 1982

Presidential Message to the Pentecostal Hunger
Strikers in Embassy Moscow

Q. Can you confirm the report that President Reagan sent a message to the two women on hunger strike in Embassy Moscow?

A. Yes, it is our understanding that the President did send a personal message to the two Pentecostals on hunger strike.

Q. What did the message say?

(If the text of the message has not yet been released use the following).

A. I do not have the text of the message. However, we understand that the President expressed his support for the families' desire to emigrate, but urged the hunger strikers to abandon their strike.

(If the White House has released the text, use the following answer).

A. The text of the message reads as follows: (Text of Presidential message attached).

Drafted: EUR/SOV: JRVanLaningham
1/29/82 X22071 #3416S
Cleared: EUR/SOV: AEDarbyshire AD
EUR/SOV: RECombs AD
EUR: JDScanlan

FOR RELEASE ONLY IF ALREADY RELEASED BY WHITE HOUSE.

Dear Augustina and Lidiya:

I want you to know of my deep personal concern for your health and your lives, which now are placed in extreme jeopardy by the hunger strike you have undertaken. My distress is shared by your many other friends and well-wishers here in the United States and elsewhere throughout the world, who join me in urging you to abandon this course before it is too late.

Please understand that you and the other members of the Vashchenko and Chmykhalov families are not alone as you pursue your brave and determined effort for emigration. Those who work on your behalf, and I have long counted myself among them, are many, and their efforts are unflagging.

Since becoming President, I have directed my Administration to do everything possible to assist you in reaching your goal. We have been in touch with Soviet officials at high levels to seek resolution of this question. I remain committed to seeking your emigration, as well as that of the other members of your family and the Chmykhalov family. I am determined to continue our efforts, and am hopeful that a solution can be found.

I ask you not to lose faith but to take heart from the sincere commitment of your many supporters. I urge you to abandon your hunger strike, and to continue your courageous course, a struggle that is an inspiration to all who value religious freedom and individual human rights.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan

FILE

Revised Pres MSG

25

Pipes ✓

504

Pentecostals

Dear Mr. President:

I once again draw your attention on an urgent basis to the tragic situation of Lidiya Vashchenko, who was hospitalized Saturday, January 30, in Moscow. The deterioration of her health brought on by her hunger strike caused the Embassy to seek emergency medical assistance for her in Moscow's Botkin hospital to prevent irreversible damage to her health.

10604

I wish to ask you, Mr. President, on a humanitarian basis, to ensure that Lidiya Vashchenko receives the best possible medical attention to hasten her complete recovery. I look forward to receiving word from the Embassy of her improved health and trust there will be no difficulty for the Embassy in visiting her in the hospital and obtaining periodic reports on her condition.

I wish to emphasize that Lidiya is entirely welcome to return to our Embassy and rejoin her other family members upon her release from the hospital. I would also like to underscore my personal expectation that she will not be prevented from doing so if it is her wish. Let me reiterate, Mr. President, my strong feelings that Lidiya and her other family members, together with the Chmykhalov family, should be permitted to emigrate in order that these people can pursue what they have sought for so long. I urge that for humanitarian reasons quick and favorable action be taken in their cases.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan

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NLRR ~~FOI~~-114/9 ± 10604

BY KML NARA DATE 4/7/2011

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PENTECOSTALS 26

10605

NLRR Feb-114/9 # 10605

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BY KML NARA DATE 4/7/2011

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1821

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 04 MOSCOW 01906

EXDIS
E. O. 12065: RDS-3 2/17/02 (ZIMMERMANN, WARREN) OR-M
TAGS: SHUM, CSCE, US, UR, SREF
SUBJECT: BACKGROUND BRIEFING MATERIAL ON PENTECOSTALS
- FOR DEMARCHES
REF: MOSCOW 1603

1. (C/EXDIS) EMBASSY MOSCOW PROPOSES THE FOLLOWING APPROACH FOR WESTERN DEMARCHES ON THE VASHCHENKOS AND CHMYKHALOV'S PER MOSCOW 1713. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE SUITABLE FOR ALL WESTERN CSCE SIGNATORIES. WE WOULD ENVISAGE AN INSTRUCTION TO CSCE CAPITALS WHICH EMPHASIZED:
 -- THE DESIRABILITY OF A HIGH-LEVEL, QUIET DEMARCHE BY THE HOST GOVERNMENT TO THE SOVIETS NOTING VIOLATION OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT AND LINKAGE (WHERE APPROPRIATE) WITH THE MAY 10 WORLD PEACE CONFERENCE OF THE RUSSIAN PATRIARCH.
 -- THE SUGGESTION THAT RECIPIENT POSTS BRING THE ISSUE TO THE ATTENTION OF PROMINENT HOST COUNTRY CHURCH LEADERS AND GROUPS (OR THAT THEY URGE THE HOST GOVERNMENT TO DO SO).
 -- THE IMPORTANCE OF THE TIME FACTOR: THE SOVIETS ARE ANXIOUS TO AVOID PROBLEMS AT THEIR PEACE CONFERENCE, AND THE PENTECOSTAL ISSUE COULD BE A SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR THEM IF THE FAMILIES HAVE NOT EMIGRATED BY THEN.

(POSTS SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THAT WE WANT TO DISCOURAGE ATTENDANCE AT THE PEACE CONFERENCE, WHICH WILL BE A SOVIET PROPAGANDA FORUM DIRECTED SQUARELY AGAINST U. S. INTERESTS. ON THE OTHER HAND, AS SOME CHURCH GROUPS SEEM LIKELY TO SEND AT LEAST LOW-LEVEL OBSERVERS IN ANY EVENT, IT IS THIS FOREGONE PARTICIPATION THAT WE WOULD HOPE TO LINK WITH THE PENTECOSTALISTS.)

2. (C/EXDIS) FOUR MEMBERS OF THE VASHCHENKO FAMILY AND TWO PERSONS FROM THE CHMYKHALOV FAMILY HAVE LIVED IN REFUGE IN EMBASSY MOSCOW FOR MORE THAN THREE AND ONE HALF YEARS. DURING THIS PERIOD, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS MADE SEVERAL HIGH LEVEL EFFORTS, INCLUDING THREE APPROACHES BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND PERSONAL ACTION BY PRESIDENT REAGAN, TO SECURE THE EMIGRATION OF THESE TWO FAMILIES TO A WESTERN COUNTRY WHERE THEY CAN FREELY PRACTICE THEIR RELIGION.

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FRUSTRATED AT SEEMLY INTERMINABLE SOVIET INACTION, TWO MEMBERS OF THE VASHCHENKO FAMILY WITHIN AMEMBASSY MOSCOW DECLARED A HUNGER STRIKE IN DECEMBER 1981, GAINING WORLD-WIDE ATTENTION. WHILE THE HUNGER STRIKE HAS NOW ENDED, IT HAS CATAPULTED THE VASHCHENKOS AND CHMYKHALOVS INTO ONE OF THE MOST PROMINENT HUMAN RIGHTS CASES IN THE SOVIET UNION. THIS HAS FOR THE FIRST TIME PROVIDED THE UNITED STATES WITH NEEDED LEVERAGE TO RESOLVE THE VASHCHENKOS' AND CHMYKHALOVS' EMIGRATION PROBLEM: THE SOVIETS ARE DISPLAYING CONSIDERABLE SENSITIVITY TO THEIR PUBLIC IMAGE IN THIS MATTER. THE USSR APPEARS TO BE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED THAT WESTERN CHRISTIAN GROUPS THEY WOULD LIKE TO ATTRACT TO THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PATRIARCH'S WORLD PEACE CONFERENCE (REF A) WILL CONDITION THEIR PARTICIPATION ON A RESOLUTION OF THE VASHCHENKO AND CHMYKHALOV PROBLEM, OR WILL PROMINENTLY BRING UP THIS ISSUE AT THE CONFERENCE.

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3. (C/EXDIS) SOVIET PERSECUTION OF THE VASHCHENKOS AND CHMYKHALOVS FOR THEIR RELIGIOUS BELIEFS, ALONG WITH THE SOVIET REFUSAL TO ALLOW THE TWO FAMILIES TO EMIGRATE, CONSTITUTE CLEAR VIOLATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE CONFERENCE FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE FINAL ACT, PARTICULARLY ARTICLE VII ON RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE SECTION ON COOPERATION IN HUMANITARIAN AND OTHER FIELDS WHICH CALLS FOR FREER MOVEMENT OF PEOPLES. WESTERN CHURCH GROUPS, BY FORCEFULLY EXPRESSING THEIR INTEREST IN THIS MATTER TO THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PATRIARCHATE AND BY EITHER REFUSING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WORLD PEACE CONFERENCE OR BY THREATENING TO RAISE THE PENTECOSTALS' PROBLEM THERE, CAN PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE IN RESOLVING THIS PROBLEM. ENERGETIC AND HIGH-LEVEL REPRESENTATION TO HOST COUNTRY GOVERNMENTS AND RELIGIOUS GROUPS IS ESSENTIAL IN ORDER TO PRESS OUR ADVANTAGE BEFORE THE WORLD PEACE CONFERENCE CONVENES MAY 10.

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4. (U) THE FOLLOWING BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE VASHCHENKOS AND CHMYKHALOVS MAY BE DRAWN FROM IN BRIEFING FOREIGN OFFICIALS AND CHURCHMEN.
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1822

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5. (U) THE VASHCHENKO FAMILY NUMBERS 16 PERSONS - PETER AND AUGUSTINA, AGE 55 AND 52, RESPECTIVELY, AND CHILDREN LIDIA, 30; LUBOV, 29; NADEZHDA, 26; VERA, 25; LILIA, 24; ALEXANDER, 22; HIS WIFE LUDMILA, 24; IOAN, 20; IAKOV, 19; DINA, 16; AVEL, 15; PAVEL, 14; SARRA, 1; AND AVRAAM, 7. THE CHMYKHALOV FAMILY TOTALS 12 MEMBERS - PETRO, 55; MARIA, 59; THEIR CHILDREN NADEZHDA, 29; ANATOLIY, 25; ALEKSANDR, 21; TIMOFEI, 19; VLADIMIR, 27; HIS WIFE EKATERINA, 26 AND THEIR CHILDREN ROMAN, 3; ELENA, 2; NADEZHDA, 1; AND MARIA'S UNMARRIED SISTER ANNA MAKARENKO, 53. BOTH FAMILIES ARE MEMBERS OF AN UNREGISTERED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH IN THEIR HOMETOWN OF CHERNOGORSK, SIBERIA. CHURCHES IN THE SOVIET UNION MUST BE GOVERNMENT SANCTIONED. REGISTERED CONGREGATIONS, WHICH HAVE OFFICIAL PERMISSION TO OPERATE, ARE REQUIRED TO ABIDE BY CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS, INCLUDING STATE APPROVAL OF PASTORS, NO ATTENDANCE BY PERSONS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE OR PROSTITUTION OF CHILDREN, AND NO TEACHING OF CERTAIN PARTS OF THE BIBLE. NEITHER THE VASHCHENKOS NOR CHMYKHALOV'S ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT SUCH RESTRICTIONS AND BOTH FAMILIES HAVE SUFFERED A LONG PERIOD OF PERSECUTIONS AS A RESULT OF FOLLOWING THE DICTATES OF THEIR CONSCIENCE. BEGINNING IN 1961 WITH KHRUSHCHEV'S INTENSIFICATION OF CHURCH PERSECUTION, MEETINGS OF THE CHERNOGORSK UNREGISTERED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH WERE BROKEN UP OR HARASSED WITH GREAT REGULARITY. AT ONE POINT THAT YEAR, A TRUCK RAMMED THE BUILDING SERVICES WERE BEING HELD IN WHILE THE CONGREGATION WAS INSIDE. WHEN THAT FAILED TO STOP THE WORSHIPPERS, A FIRE TRUCK WAS BROUGHT IN, WINDOWS BROKEN OUT AND THE CONGREGATION SPRAYED FULL FORCE WITH COLD WATER. ON ANOTHER OCCASION THAT SAME YEAR, A POWDER WAS THROWN INTO THE BASEMENT OF THE HOUSE WHERE THE UNREGISTERED PENTECOSTALS WERE MEETING, CAUSING ITCHING AND SNEEZING. MEMBERS OF THE CHMYKHALOV AND VASHCHENKO FAMILIES WERE ALSO BEATEN, HARASSED ON THE JOB AND FINED FOR ATTENDING "ILLEGAL" CHURCH SERVICES.

6. (U) CONVINCED THAT THEY WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO

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WORSHIP IN THE SOVIET UNION ACCORDING TO THEIR BELIEFS, THE VASHCHENKOS AND CHMYKHALOV'S SEPARATELY BEGAN THEIR QUEST FOR EMIGRATION, PREFERABLY TO ISRAEL, WHICH THEY HELD TO BE THEIR SPIRITUAL HOMETOWN. THIS QUEST, MOTIVATED SOLELY BY CONSTANT RELIGIOUS PERSECUTIONS, HAS BEEN FRUSTRATED FOR 20 YEARS BY RESTRICTIVE SOVIET EMIGRATION PRACTICES. NEITHER THE VASHCHENKOS NOR CHMYKHALOV'S HAVE RELATIVES ABROAD. THE SOVIET UNION, WHICH DOES NOT ACKNOWLEDGE RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION, DOES NOT ALLOW EMIGRATION ON RELIGIOUS OR VIRTUALLY ANY GROUNDS OTHER THAN FAMILY REUNIFICATION. IN OCTOBER 1962, PETER AND AUGUSTINA, ACCOMPANIED BY SEVERAL OF THEIR CHILDREN, TRAVELED TO MOSCOW WHERE THEY REQUESTED PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDUM OF THE SUPREME SOVIET. RECEIVING NO ASSISTANCE, THE VASHCHENKOS NEXT TURNED TO THE AMERICAN EMBASSY -- NOT KNOWING THERE WAS THEN AN ISRAELI EMBASSY IN MOSCOW. THE FAMILY HOPED THE AMERICANS COULD EITHER ASSIST THEM IN REACHING ISRAEL, OR ADMIT THEM TO THE U. S. WHERE THEY COULD WORSHIP FREELY. THEY WERE KEPT FROM ENTERING THE U. S. EMBASSY, HOWEVER, BY SOVIET GUARDS. PETER SUBSEQUENTLY WROTE A DECLARATION OF HIS DESIRE TO LEAVE THE USSR, LEFT IT AT THE PRESIDUM AND THE VASHCHENKOS RETURNED TO CHERNOGORSK. ON DECEMBER 14, 1962, PETER WAS ARRESTED AND ON MARCH 21, 1963 SENTENCED TO TWO YEARS IMPRISONMENT UNDER ARTICLE 227 WHICH MAKES IT A CRIME TO ORGANIZE OR LEAD A GROUP "WHOSE ACTIVITY, CARRIED ON UNDER THE GUISE OF PREACHING RELIGIOUS DOCTRINES AND PERFORMING RELIGIOUS RITUALS, IS CONNECTED WITH CAUSING HARM TO CITIZENS' HEALTH ..."

7. (U) EARLIER IN 1962, PETER AND AUGUSTINA HAD BEEN DEPRIVED OF PARENTAL RIGHTS FOR THEIR THREE OLDEST CHILDREN BECAUSE THEY REFUSED TO ALLOW THEIR OFFSPRING TO RECEIVE ATHEISTIC EDUCATION IN SOVIET SCHOOLS. IN THE SUMMER OF THAT YEAR, THE THREE WERE FORCIBLY REMOVED FROM THEIR PARENTS' HOME AND PLACED IN AN ORPHANAGE, NOT TO BE RELEASED UNTIL MORE THAN FIVE YEARS LATER. IN 1968, PETER AND AUGUSTINA VASHCHENKO RETURNED TO THE AMERICAN EMBASSY TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE. THEY WERE DENIED ENTRANCE BY THE MILITIA GUARD AND ARRESTED. PETER WAS INCARCERATED IN A PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL FOR TWO MONTHS, FOLLOWED BY A SENTENCE OF ONE YEAR IN A LABOR COLONY FOR NOT HAVING A SOVIET INTERNAL PASSPORT (PETER HAD RETURNED HIS INTERNAL BT

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 03 OF 04 MOSCOW 01906

EXDIS
PASSPORT TO SOVIET AUTHORITIES IN MARCH 1965 TO UNDER-
LINE HIS DETERMINATION TO EMIGRATE). AUGUSTINA WAS
SENTENCED TO THREE YEARS IN A LABOR CAMP UNDER ARTICLE
191 FOR RESISTANCE TO AUTHORITY.

8. (U) PERSECUTIONS OF THE VASHCHENKO FAMILY DID NOT
STOP AFTER THE RELEASE OF PETER AND AUGUSTINA.
ALTHOUGH THE THREE OLDER DAUGHTERS HAD BEEN RESTORED
TO THE FAMILY, THE STATE THREATENED TO REMOVE THE
YOUNGER VASHCHENKO CHILDREN IN 1974. IN 1975, THE
FAMILY WAS ATTACKED BY NAME IN THE NEWSPAPER
"CHERNOGORSK WORKER" FOR FOLLOWING "RELIGIOUS
PREJUDICES" THAT CAUSED THEM TO COME INTO CONFLICT
WITH SOVIET LAW. ON DECEMBER 9, 1977 THE OLDEST
VASHCHENKO SON, ALEXANDER, WAS SENTENCED TO THREE
YEARS IMPRISONMENT FOR REFUSING INDUCTION ON RELIGIOUS
GROUNDS INTO THE SOVIET ARMY.

9. (U) THE CHMYKHALOVS BEGAN ACTIVELY TO PURSUE
EMIGRATION IN 1963. IN THAT YEAR, PETRO CHMYKHALOV
HAD INTENDED TO JOIN A GROUP OF 32 CHERNOGORSK
PENTECOSTALS WHO TRAVELED TO MOSCOW (AND VISITED
THE AMERICAN EMBASSY) REQUESTING PERMISSION TO
EMIGRATE. WORK AND A FAMILY ILLNESS PREVENTED HIM.
ON THE BASIS OF ADVICE FROM SOME OF THE 32, THE
CHMYKHALOVS DECLARED THEIR INTENTION TO EMIGRATE
BY A LETTER TO PREMIER KHRUSCHEV, IN WHICH THEY
UNILATERALLY RENOUNCED THEIR SOVIET CITIZENSHIP AND
RETURNED THEIR SOVIET INTERNAL PASSPORTS. THE LOCAL
AUTHORITIES RESPONDED BY SEARCHING THE CHMYKHALOV
HOME AND REGULARLY HAULING MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY
BEFORE LOCAL COURTS TO BE GIVEN STIFF FINES FOR
ILLEGAL RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES. SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE
FAMILY WERE AT VARIOUS TIMES ARRESTED: MARIA SERVED
32 DAYS IN PRISON IN 1969 FOR LACK OF AN INTERNAL
PASSPORT. PETRO WAS SENTENCED TO ONE YEAR IN A LABOR
CAMP FOR THE SAME OFFENSE THAT YEAR. MARIA'S SISTER,
ANNA MAKARENKO, WAS ARRESTED IN 1968, ALSO FOR
PASSPORT VIOLATIONS.

10. (U) THE CHMYKHALOVS CONTINUED TO WRITE SOVIET
AUTHORITIES REGULARLY TO REQUEST PERMISSION TO
EMIGRATE, WITHOUT RESULT. FINALLY IN 1978, AFTER

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BEING TOLD BY A SOVIET LOCAL OFFICIAL THAT NO FOREIGN COUNTRY WANTED TO ACCEPT THE FAMILY, MARIA CHMYKHALOV AND HER SON TIMOFEI DECIDED TO JOIN 6 MEMBERS OF THE VASHCHENKO FAMILY WHO PLANNED TO VISIT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY. THE VASHCHENKOS HAD JUST RECEIVED LETTERS OF INVITATION ("VYZOV") FROM THE UNITED STATES BUT LOCAL EMIGRATION AUTHORITIES INSISTED THAT THE AMERICANS DID NOT WANT THEIR FAMILY EITHER AND REFUSED TO ACCEPT THEIR DOCUMENTS.

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11. (U) PETER VASHCHENKO, ALONG WITH THE TWO CHMYKHALOV AND HIS WIFE AUGUSTINA AND CHILDREN LIDIA, LYUBOV, LILIA AND IOAN, HOPED TO SECURE FROM THE U. S. EMBASSY EVIDENCE THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT THEM AS EMIGRANTS AND ASSISTANCE IN THE EMIGRATION PROCESS. ON JUNE 27, 1978 THE TWO FAMILIES WERE DENIED ENTRY INTO THE EMBASSY BY SOVIET POLICEMEN DESPITE THE FACT THAT THEY BORE A LETTER OF INVITATION FROM THE U. S. CONSUL. THE TWO FAMILIES DECIDED TO RUSH PAST THE SOVIET POLICE ONTO THE EMBASSY COMPOUND, BUT IN THE PROCESS ONE MEMBER OF THE GROUP, IOAN VASHCHENKO, WAS APPREHENDED. THE SEVEN WHO SUCCEEDED IN ENTERING THE EMBASSY WERE IN AN AGITATED AND DESPERATE STATE AND REFUSED TO LEAVE UNTIL THEY KNEW WHAT HAD BECOME OF IOAN. EMBASSY OFFICERS IMMEDIATELY CONTACTED SOVIET POLICE OFFICIALS TO DETERMINE IOAN'S WHEREABOUTS AND CONDITION, BUT RECEIVED NO ANSWER BY NIGHTFALL. THE SEVEN PENTECOSTALS WERE THEREFORE ALLOWED TO REMAIN IN THE EMBASSY FOR WHAT WAS EXPECTED TO BE A VERY BRIEF AND TEMPORARY PERIOD OF REFUGE. IT WAS NOT UNTIL TWO WEEKS LATER THAT WE LEARNED THAT IOAN VASHCHENKO HAD BEEN BEATEN BY THE SOVIET POLICE, AND THEN RELEASED AND RETURNED TO CHERNOGORSK. BY THAT TIME, THE SEVEN WITHIN THE EMBASSY BELIEVED THEIR LONG RESIDENCY THERE WOULD BRING HARSH OFFICIAL REPRISALS AGAINST THEM AND WERE AFRAID TO LEAVE.

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12. (U) SINCE JUNE 27, 1978, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS BROUGHT THE VASHCHENKO'S AND CHMYKHALOV'S EMIGRATION PROBLEM TO THE ATTENTION OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT NO LESS THAN 35 TIMES, INCLUDING 4 TIMES AT THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND/OR FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL. PRESIDENT REAGAN HAS DECLARED HIS CONCERN FOR AND SUPPORT OF THE TWO FAMILIES SEVERAL TIMES EVEN BEFORE TAKING OFFICE. THE PRESIDENT'S MOST RECENT INITIATIVE ON BEHALF OF THE VASHCHENKOS AND CHMYKHALOV BT

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WAS A LETTER TO THEM ON JANUARY 29, 1981. SOME FOREIGN COUNTRIES LENT THEIR SUPPORT. ON JUNE 11, 1980, IN RESPONSE TO A PARLIAMENTARY MOTION THE CANADIAN EMBASSY IN MOSCOW INFORMED SOVIET AUTHORITIES THAT CANADA WAS PREPARED TO RECEIVE THE PENTECOSTALS AND ASKED THAT THE VASHCHENKOS AND CHMYKHALOVS BE ALLOWED TO EMIGRATE. IN DECEMBER 1981, NINE SWEDISH PARLIAMENTARIANS CALLED IN A LETTER TO PRESIDENT BREZHNEV FOR THE RELEASE OF THE TWO FAMILIES. THIS INITIATIVE RECEIVED PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT IN NORWAY, THE NETHERLANDS AND IRELAND.

13. (U) THE SOVIET MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS MAINTAINED A CONSISTENT POSITION OVER THE THREE AND ONE HALF YEARS OF THE PENTECOSTALS' REFUGE IN THE U. S. EMBASSY -- THAT THE SEVEN SHOULD RETURN TO THEIR HOME TOWN OF CHERNOGORSK TO APPLY FOR EMIGRATION. THE SOVIETS HAVE REFUSED TO PROVIDE GUARANTEES THAT THE VASHCHENKOS AND CHMYKHALOVS WOULD BE ALLOWED TO EMIGRATE IF THEY DID RETURN HOME. THE TWO FAMILIES, FOR THEIR PART, NOTE THAT EMIGRATION AUTHORITIES REFUSED TO ACCEPT THEIR APPLICATIONS FOR EMIGRATION IN CHERNOGORSK FOR 16 YEARS BEFORE THEY CAME TO THE EMBASSY. AFTER MUCH SOUL SEARCHING, THE SEVEN WITHIN THE EMBASSY AGREED TO A COMPROMISE POSITION: THEY WOULD LEAVE THE EMBASSY IF THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS WERE FIRST ALLOWED TO EMIGRATE FROM CHERNOGORSK AND THEY WERE GIVEN ASSURANCES THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE PERSECUTED AND WOULD BE ALLOWED TO EMIGRATE. SINCE THEN, THE SEVEN HAVE STATED THEY WOULD LEAVE WITHOUT ASSURANCES IF THEIR OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS WERE ALLOWED TO EMIGRATE.

14. (U) DRIVEN TO DESPAIR BY SOVIET REFUSALS TO CONSIDER THEIR PLEA FOR EMIGRATION, TWO MEMBERS OF THE VASHCHENKO FAMILY WITHIN THE U. S. EMBASSY, AUGUSTINA AND LIDIA, BEGAN HUNGER STRIKES ON DECEMBER 25 AND 28, 1981 RESPECTIVELY. ON JANUARY 30, 1982 LIDIA VASHCHENKO, DEHYDRATED AND WEAK FROM HUNGER, WAS TAKEN TO A SOVIET HOSPITAL BY EMBASSY OFFICERS FOR NECESSARY MEDICAL TREATMENT UNAVAILABLE ON THE EMBASSY COMPOUND. LIDIA STOPPED HER HUNGER STRIKE, RECOVERED, AND UPON HER RELEASE ON FEBRUARY 11, DECIDED TO RETURN TO CHERNOGORSK TO APPLY FOR EMIGRATION, ALONG WITH HER FAMILY MEMBERS STILL

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THERE, AS A TEST OF THE POSITION THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT HAS HELD FOR MORE THAN THREE YEARS.

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15. (U) THE SOVIETS ARE REACTING TO THE TREMENDOUS GROWTH IN WESTERN PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE VASHCHENKOS AND CHMYKHALOVS WITH VILIFICATION. IN CONTACTS WITH WESTERN CHURCHMEN AND IN A FEBRUARY 15 TASS STORY, THE USSR HAS MAINTAINED THAT:
-- THE EMBASSY PENTECOSTALS HAVE BEEN EXCOMMUNICATED BY THEIR CHURCH AND ARE NOT A RELIGIOUS ISSUE (IN FACT, THE VASHCHENKOS AND CHMYKHALOVS BELONG TO AN UNREGISTERED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH. THEY WERE "EXCOMMUNICATED" BY ANOTHER PENTECOSTAL GROUP TO WHICH THEY DO NOT BELONG.)

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-- NO ONE HAS EVER PERSECUTED THE VASHCHENKOS AND CHMYKHALOVS AND NO ONE WILL IF THEY RETURN TO CHERNOGORSK (PAST SOVIET BEHAVIOR RENDERS THIS ARGUMENT LUDICROUS).
-- THE PENTECOSTAL HUNGER STRIKE WAS A STAGED AFFAIR AND IS BEING EXPLOITED BY THE UNITED STATES AS PART OF AN ANTI-SOVIET CAMPAIGN. (EMBASSY MOSCOW TOOK EVERY ACTION TO DISCOURAGE THE HUNGER STRIKE AND HOSPITALIZED LIDIA WHEN, IN THE EMBASSY DOCTOR'S JUDGMENT, HER CONDITION THREATENED IMMINENT DAMAGE TO HER VITAL ORGANS. LIDIA MADE A FULL RECOVERY BECAUSE THE EMBASSY ACTED BEFORE PERMANENT DAMAGE COULD OCCUR. THE U. S. GOVERNMENT DID NOT SUPPORT THE HUNGER STRIKE, BUT CERTAINLY SUPPORTS THE RIGHT OF THE VASHCHENKO AND CHMYKHALOV FAMILIES TO EMIGRATE AND WORSHIP FREELY.)

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PENTECOSTALS

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
MESSAGE CENTER

PAGE 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 2355 DTG: 261408Z FEB 82 PSN: 031627
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 02355

EXDIS
DEPT FOR EUR/SOV
E.O. 12065: RDS-4 2/26/02 (MCCALL, SHERROD) OR-M
TAGS: SREF, UR, US
SUBJECT: INTERNAL DISCORD AMONG EMBASSY PENTECOSTALS
- INCREASING
REF: 81 MOSCOW 16758

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~, ENTIRE TEXT.

2. INTERNAL DISCORD AMONG THE SIX PENTECOSTALS LIVING IN REFUGE AT AMEMBASSY MOSCOW HAS UNEXPECTEDLY SHARPENED IN RECENT WEEKS. WHILE DIVISIONS ALONG GENERATIONAL AND FAMILY LINES HAVE BEEN NOTABLE FOR MORE THAN A YEAR (REFTEL), NEW SQUABBLES HAVE DEVELOPED SINCE MID-JANUARY 1982 WHICH PIT MARIA CHMYKHALOV AGAINST THE OTHER FIVE PENTECOSTALS, INCLUDING HER SON TIMOFEI. MARIA FELT ISOLATED AND IGNORED DURING THE HUNGER STRIKE. ALTHOUGH CONSOFFS TOOK CARE TO ENSURE HER THAT ALL U.S. GOVERNMENT EFFORTS WERE BEING MADE EQUALLY ON BEHALF OF THE CHMYKHALOV'S AND VASHCHENKO'S, MARIA GENERALLY RECEIVED NO ATTENTION FROM CORRESPONDENTS COVERING THE STRIKE AND SUPPORTERS CALLING FROM THE WEST. MARIA IS HANDICAPPED BY HER LACK OF ENGLISH AND HER ESTRANGEMENT FROM HER ENGLISH-SPEAKING SON. SHE CANNOT SPEAK DIRECTLY WITH MOST WESTERN SUPPORTERS AND MANY CORRESPONDENTS, BUT NONE OF THE OTHER PENTECOSTALS IS WILLING TO INTERPRET FOR HER. SINCE THE ENLARGEMENT OF THE PENTECOSTALS' LIVING QUARTERS TO TWO ROOMS -- A MOVE TAKEN TO GIVE THE SIX MORE PRIVACY AND, WE HOPED, TO COOL TEMPERS STRAINED BY CLOSE LIVING CONDITIONS -- ARGUMENTS BETWEEN MARIA AND THE OTHERS HAVE GROWN CONSIDERABLY WORSE. TIMOFEI CHMYKHALOV HAS IN EFFECT BECOME A MEMBER OF THE VASHCHENKO FAMILY, TAKING THEIR SIDE IN INTER-FAMILY DISPUTES, SUPPORTING, IN MARIA'S VIEW, THE INTERESTS OF THE VASHCHENKOS ABOVE THOSE OF HIS OWN FAMILY, AND IGNORING MARIA. TIMOFEI SHARES A BEDROOM WITH HIS MOTHER BUT SPENDS THE GREATER PART OF HIS DAY WITH THE VASHCHENKOS IN AN ADJOINING ROOM. MARIA HAS ACCUSED THE VASHCHENKOS OF STEALING HER SON AWAY AND DEMANDED THAT THEY RELEASE HIM FROM THEIR INFLUENCE.

3. COMMENT: THE VASHCHENKOS' AND CHMYKHALOV'S

DECLASSIFIED IN PART

NLRR EOB-114/a # 10606

BY KMLNARA DATE 4/7/2011

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DTG: 261408Z FEB 82 PSN: 031627

SQUABBLES BEGAN LONG BEFORE THEY ENTERED THE EMBASSY. THE TWO FAMILIES WERE MEMBERS OF DIFFERENT UNREGISTERED PENTECOSTAL CHURCHES IN CHERNOGORSK THAT HAD SPLIT LARGELY OVER PETER VASHCHENKO'S INTERPRETATION OF CERTAIN DOCTRINES. DISCORD BETWEEN THE TWO FAMILIES WAS SUSPENDED FOR A SHORT TIME WHEN THEY MADE THEIR JOINT TRIP TO THE EMBASSY IN 1978. WHEN THEY UNEXPECTEDLY ENDED UP IN REFUGE HERE, THE OLD DIVISIONS QUICKLY FLARED. THE VASHCHENKOS WERE LARGELY THE AGGRESSIVE PARTY IN THE EARLY DISPUTES, SPREADING FALSE ACCOUNTS THAT MARIA WAS TRYING TO LIVE TOO WELL IN THE EMBASSY, DEFAMING MARIA AS A LIAR AND ENCOURAGING BOTH SUPPORTERS AND THE EMBASSY TO ABANDON THE CHMYKHALOV'S WHOSE CASE FOR EMIGRATION, THE VASHCHENKOS MAINTAIN, IS NOWHERE NEAR AS GOOD AS THAT OF THEIR FAMILY. NONETHELESS, MARIA HAS CLEARLY INSTIGATED THE LATEST DISCORD BY INSISTENTLY DEMANDING THAT THE VASHCHENKOS "RETURN HER SON TO HER." HEATED SHOUTING MATCHES BETWEEN MARIA AND THE VASHCHENKOS ARE NOW DAILY OCCURRENCES. CONSOFFS HAVE APPEALED TO THE SIX SEVERAL TIMES TO LIVE TOGETHER PEACEABLY AS CHRISTIANS AND HAVE POINTED OUT THE NEGATIVE IMPACT SUCH DISCORD WILL HAVE ON SUPPORT FOR THE PENTECOSTALS IN THE WEST -- ALL TO NO AVAIL.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 02355

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PENTECOSTALS 37

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PAGE 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 3872 DTG: 161734Z NOV 82 PSN: 009511
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 13872
EXDIS
DEPT FOR S/S AND EUR/SOV
WHITE HOUSE FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT'S PARTY
E. O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, CSCE, UR, OVIP
SUBJECT: SUBSTANCE OF BUSH/SHULTZ MEETING WITH EMBASSY
- PENTECOSTALS
REFS: (A) MOSCOW 13789, (B) MOSCOW 13754

1. THE LETTERS PREPARED BY THE VASHCHENKO FAMILY (PARA 1, REF A) PROVED TO BE AN OUTLINE OF THE COURSE OF THE DISCUSSION DURING THE VISIT OF VICE PRESIDENT BUSH AND SECRETARY SHULTZ TO THE PENTECOSTAL FAMILIES IN REFUGE IN THE EMBASSY ON NOVEMBER 15.
2. THE LOW-KEY EXCHANGE PROCEEDED IN TURN THROUGH THE CONCERNS EXPRESSED IN THE LETTERS. THE SECRETARY ASSURED THE FAMILIES THAT THE U. S. GOVERNMENT SEIZES EVERY POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE WITH THE SOVIETS THEIR CASES AND THOSE OF OTHERS LIKE THEM WHO ARE PERSECUTED BECAUSE OF THEIR BELIEFS. VICE PRESIDENT BUSH EXPLORED WITH LIUBA VASHCHENKO THE MATTERS OF HER MOTHER'S (AUGUSTINA'S) ILLNESS, AND OF POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE IN EMIGRATING FROM COUSIN GREGORY, WHO NOW LIVES IN THE FRG. (COMMENT: INASMUCH AS THE SUBSTANCE OF THE LETTERS WAS DISCUSSED FULLY IN PERSON, EMBASSY BELIEVES NO FORMAL WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THE VASHCHENKO LETTERS IS NECESSARY. END COMMENT.)
3. LIUBA VASHCHENKO, WHO, WITH HER EXCELLENT ENGLISH, DOMINATED THE MEETING FROM THE PENTECOSTAL SIDE, THEN BROUGHT UP THE MATTER OF A POSSIBLE VISIT TO THE EMBASSY BY CHERNOGORSK FAMILY MEMBERS (REF B). UPON LEARNING THAT LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN CHERNOGORSK HAVE APPARENTLY AGREED TO ALLOW THE VASHCHENKO CHILDREN TO TRAVEL TO MOSCOW, (DETAILS REPORTED SEPTEL), THE VICE PRESIDENT SUGGESTED THAT THIS WAS PERHAPS A SIGN OF A CHANGING SOVIET POINT OF VIEW, AND REPEATED PRIOR EMBASSY ASSURANCES TO THE FAMILY THAT IT WILL DO WHAT IS POSSIBLE TO FACILITATE THE REUNION.
4. THE MEETING CONCLUDED WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT'S AND SECRETARY'S RENEWED EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT FOR THE FAMILIES' DESIRE TO EMIGRATE, AND WITH THANKS FROM BOTH THE CHMYKHALOV'S AND VASHCHENKO'S FOR THE VISIT.
5. THIS MESSAGE HAS NOT BEEN CLEARED BY MEMBERS OF

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PAGE 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 3872

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VICE PRESIDENT' S OR SECRETARY' S PARTY.
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12/22 PENTECOSTALS 39

TESTIMONY OF THOMAS W. SIMONS, JR.

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF SOVIET UNION AFFAIRS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BEFORE THE

HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION, REFUGEES, AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

16 DECEMBER 1982

SENATE BILL 312

Mr. Chairman:

I am pleased to have this opportunity to present the Department of State's views on ~~Human Rights Representative Bill~~ ^{SENATE BILL 312} ~~Bill~~, which would grant permanent resident alien status to those members of the Chmykhalov and Vashchenko families currently living in refuge in the American Embassy in Moscow. As I testified in November, 1981, in hearings before the Senate Judiciary Committee, the U.S. Government takes a strong and continuing interest in the plight of these two Pentecostalist families. We are firmly committed to helping them seek the emigration they desire and the freedom of movement and freedom of religious expression which are provided for under the Helsinki Final Act. The thirteen months since I testified last for the Department of State on the legislation under consideration have been an eventful time for the Vashchenkos and Chmykhalovs, and I would like to begin this present report by briefly reviewing the events of that period, and the role played by our Embassy in Moscow.

Late last December two members of the Vashchenko family in refuge in the Embassy, the mother Augustina and the eldest daughter Lidiya, embarked on a hunger strike in the hope of encouraging a favorable resolution of the families' long-standing emigration case. From the outset of Augustina's and Lidiya's strike, the Embassy provided the two women with

the most thorough medical supervision in its power, while urging them to cease the strike, which became increasingly hazardous to their health. The Embassy also facilitated communications between the Vashchenkos and their supporters in the United States and elsewhere, and these supporters also urged Augustina and Lidiya to abandon their strike. In spite of these pleas, mother and daughter continued their hunger strike. Finally, in late January, the best medical advice available held that Lidiya faced irreversible damage to her health unless she received medical attention only available outside the Embassy. Since the Soviet authorities did not see fit to agree that she should receive it in a Western country, the only alternative was hospitalization in Moscow, which took place January 30. During her stay in the hospital, she was frequently visited by Embassy officers, who conveyed messages from her family and monitored her return to health. On February 11, Lidiya checked out of the hospital, and, along with her sister Vera and brother Sasha, who had travelled to Moscow from the family's hometown of Chernogorsk, Siberia, visited those members of her family still in refuge in the Embassy. The Embassy facilitated this visit to the fullest extent. The next day Lidiya, Sasha, and Vera departed for Chernogorsk, and Augustina subsequently abandoned her hunger strike on learning that her children had arrived home safely.

Over the following several months the Chmykhalov and Vashchenko families encountered a number of disappointing

developments in their emigration case. In February, the applications of the Chmykhalovs were refused by the local OVIR -- the Soviet Office of Visas and Registration -- because those documents were three years old. In March, Lidiya was again prevented from applying for emigration, despite the fact that Soviet authorities had earlier claimed that her return to Chernogorsk was a precondition for the consideration of her application. It was also informally suggested by the OVIR that she had broken Soviet law by residing in the American Embassy. During the spring of this year the hopes of the Chernogorsk Vashchenkos were temporarily raised by periodic reports from OVIR that their applications to renounce Soviet citizenship were "under consideration". At the same time the family was subjected to harassment ranging from vilification in the Soviet media to threats of court proceedings and outright violence. The several demarches which the U.S. Government made that spring on behalf of the two families did not bring positive results, for in early June Soviet authorities denied the Vashchenkos' applications to renounce Soviet citizenship and repeated the familiar position that all family members had to return to Chernogorsk before they could expect action on their case. Disheartened by the continued intransigence of Soviet authorities towards her family's plight, Lidiya in late June began a hunger strike in Chernogorsk, and on July 1 Augustina and Liliya, Lidiya's sister, likewise began hunger strikes of their own in the Embassy.

Once again, the Embassy did all it could to represent and promote the family's interests, by making representations to the Soviet Government on their behalf, facilitating communications between the Vashchenkos and their supporters in the West, and monitoring the health of Liliya and Augustina closely. The recurrence of Augustina's colitis increased our concern, even though during the second hunger strike the Vashchenkos occasionally took fruit juices to reduce the harmful effects of the fast. Nevertheless, despite such precautions, the hunger strike produced potentially worrisome medical side effects, and it took the Embassy and the family's supporters more than two months to convince Augustina and Liliya to abandon their hunger strike, which they officially ended on September 13. As before, the Soviet Government remained unmoved.

Most recently, twelve members of the Vashchenko family were permitted by Soviet authorities to come to Moscow in order to visit their family members in the Embassy. The Embassy had made clear before the trip began that in order to ensure a successful visit only two members of the Chernogorsk Vashchenkos would be allowed to enter the Embassy at one time, with visits of the twelve being spaced over several hours or several days, and that none of the visitors would be able to stay overnight in the Embassy, although the Embassy would help the visitors in seeking housing elsewhere. Unfortunately, the Chernogorsk Vashchenkos and the members of the family inside

the Embassy refused to meet with each other in accordance with these arrangements once the trip had begun, and we were unable to persuade them to agree to do so during the time of their stay in Moscow. As discussions with the Vashchenkos were continuing on this problem, Soviet authorities last week instructed the visiting Vashchenkos to leave Moscow, and we understand they are now in Ryazan. We are continuing discussions on this matter with the Vashchenkos and with the Soviets. We hope that a visit under the appropriate conditions can be arranged soon, and that the Soviet authorities will reconsider their decision to order the visiting Vashchenkos out of Moscow. Meanwhile, we will continue our efforts to secure the emigration of all the members of the Vashchenko and Chmykhalov families.

The preceding chronology covers only the major developments in the cases of the two families over the past year. It is a sober history, and I put it before you at a moment -- the holiday season -- that would be a particularly welcome occasion to bring it to a happy end, and let these good people pursue their religious faith and practice in an environment of their choice. For the sad present, however, we must draw the lessons of that history. I believe there are two: a clear record of U.S. Government support for the Pentecostals' goal, and an equally clear record of Soviet unwillingness to act on their request under any terms except those defined by the authorities. For more than two decades these two families have

sought nothing more ambitious than their basic human right to an environment in which they can freely express their religious convictions. As a result of their beliefs, the members of these families have been visited with every sort of harassment, ranging from verbal abuse and insinuations, through physical abuse and economic penalties, up to imprisonment and forcible separation of family members. Even to this day, the Soviet authorities maintain the precondition that before their applications to emigrate will be considered again, all the members of the family, including those currently in the Embassy, must first reside in their hometown of Chernogorsk, Siberia.

Despite the Soviet Government's record of inflexibility on this issue, the United States Government continues to stand firmly behind the Chmykhalovs and the Vashchenkos in their efforts to emigrate. The Department of State shares the frustration which the intransigent attitude of the Soviet authorities has caused among the Embassy Pentecostals and their supporters, and we are in favor of every reasonable initiative which might contribute to the common goal -- emigration for the Pentecostal families. But we must also note that the major criterion by which any proposed action to help the Pentecostals must be evaluated is its effectiveness: that is, does the proposed action help or hinder the family's chances for emigration? In this regard, we try to be particularly careful that our justifiable dissatisfaction

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over the lack of progress on the situation of the Vashchenkos and Chmykhalovs is not translated into measures which could prejudice -- perhaps forever -- the families' chances to emigrate. It is in this spirit that we believe the bill before us today should be carefully examined.

For those of us who are frustrated over the Soviet Government's unwillingness to resolve favorably the plight of the Pentecostals, S 312 appears to offer the opportunity to do something positive. The Vashchenko and Chmykhalov families themselves are highly in favor of this legislation. They believe that its passage will demonstrate the U.S. Government's official and permanent commitment to their cause. That this would be a significant morale booster for the families as well as for their supporters cannot be disputed, and is a point in favor of the bill.

S 312

At the same time, it is worth noting that ~~AMERICAN~~ is not needed to permit the U.S. Government to document the members of either or both families for entry into the United States. Such documentation can be easily and quickly accomplished under the provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act and the Refugee Act of 1980. It is not U.S. law that stands in the way of these families, but rather Soviet policy, which the Soviet authorities insist is based on Soviet law and regulation.

Section 3 of the ~~amended~~ bill provides that the members of the Vashchenko and Chmykhalov families currently residing in refuge in the Embassy will be considered physically present and residing in the United States since June 27, 1978, when they entered the Embassy. This provision suggests reliance on the concept of extra-territoriality-- the idea that the land occupied by an Embassy is part and parcel of the sovereign territory of the sending state. This is a concept that has no foundation in international law and that has been long rejected by the United States and the international community in general. Consequently, while our Embassy and its compound in the USSR are inviolable under international law, and while we are able to extend our protection to the Pentecostalist families as long as they continue to live in refuge within the Embassy, legally they remain Soviet citizens, residing in the Soviet Union and subject to Soviet laws. The United States cannot, whether by legislation or any other means, unilaterally alter this basic legal situation.

In considering the merits of this bill, our primary criterion must be its effect on the achievement of the families' ultimate goal - emigration from the Soviet Union. One aspect of this question is the likely effect the bill will have on the Soviet Government, since it is responsible for the families' current sad plight and since it alone has the power to resolve the situation positively. There is no question that should this bill be passed, under U.S. law the members of the

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Vashchenko and Chmykhalov families will be legally permanent resident aliens of the United States. However, in the eyes of the Soviet Government their status will not have changed in any way. The Soviets will continue to treat them as Soviet citizens living in the USSR and subject to its laws and regulations, as they are entitled to do under generally accepted principles of international law. In addition the Soviets would almost certainly view the passage of ~~HR 10077~~^{S 312} as an attempt to extend U.S. legislative jurisdiction to Soviet citizens and, therefore, force them to take a position which would further harden their attitude against the Pentecostalists. The Soviet authorities would be motivated to demonstrate to the Soviet citizenry and to the international community that the U.S. Government cannot unilaterally accord Soviet citizens some form of special status or protection under U.S. law. The practical effect of this would almost certainly be even greater intransigence on the part of the Soviet Government on this issue.

There is no doubt that the events of the past year as I have recounted them to you earlier in my testimony are most disappointing. If anything, it would appear that the Soviet position on the emigration request of the Pentecostalist families has hardened. In view of the increased intransigence of the Soviet Government, one can legitimately ask how this bill could make the Soviets any less opposed to resolving the families' plight.

We at the State Department have found from sad experience that there is no quick and easy solution to the dilemma faced by the Vashchenkos and Chmykhalovs. Given the current state of our relations with the Soviet Union, it is not possible to be optimistic that the Soviet authorities will change their approach to the families' emigration applications anytime in the near future. If they did, they could be sure of a positive effect on U.S. Government attitudes and on U.S.-Soviet bilateral relations and they know this to be true. So we continue to be hopeful, if not optimistic. In the meantime, however, we believe that we owe it to the families to keep all their options open. It is our opinion that passage of this bill would reduce rather than increase the chances that the Soviets would in the future decide on a positive solution to the Pentecostalists' problem. Our past efforts on behalf of these families have not been successful, but we will continue to work for them and remain hopeful that in time a solution will be found. We believe that eventually a time and situation must come when the Soviets will finally see that it is in their best interests to allow the families to leave the USSR. But we cannot support actions that -- in our view, based on our experience in dealing with the Soviets over the years -- are on balance unlikely to help achieve the objective we and the families hold dear -- emigration from the USSR to the country of their choice.

We believe that over the past four and a half years the Department of State has demonstrated beyond any reasonable doubt our determination to assist the Vashchenko and Chmykhalov families in any way we can to achieve their goal of emigrating from the USSR. If we believed that the passage of S 312 could really help the families, we would be the first to endorse it. Unfortunately, however, we must conclude that its passage will only close Soviet minds, and postpone the day when they decide the families' case in a positive light. This remains our problem with the bill, and the reason why the Department is unable to testify in favor of it.

TO: DICK MORRIS 5/14/24
FROM: PAULA DOBRIANSKY
Pentecost

I am writing in response to your letter concerning the Pentecostalists who are living in refuge at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. These two families -- Vashchenko and Chmykhalov -- have long desired to emigrate from the Soviet Union.

As you are aware, the ultimate responsibility for the resolution of the plight of these individuals lies squarely with the Soviet government which refuses to allow them to leave the USSR. To date, Soviet authorities have not seen fit on either legal or humanitarian grounds to assure the families that they and 22 of their close relatives in their home town of Chernogorsk will be permitted to emigrate. The families have received invitations from a number of supporters in the United States and the U.S. Government stands ready to issue entry visas for them immediately once they receive permission to leave the Soviet Union. A number of Western governments including our own have urged the Soviet government to grant them that permission.

Unfortunately, the Soviet government has not been positive. Lidiya Vashchenko has been officially informed that her exit visa application as well as those of her relatives will not be formally accepted for processing until the family members at the Embassy also return to Chernogorsk. The Vashchenko and Chmykhalov families in Chernogorsk have encountered surveillance, harassment and a variety of procedural obstacles in their emigration application. Our government regards this new manifestation of Soviet intransigence and insensitivity to the families' plight as a deplorable disregard for their individual rights and those general human right principles enunciated in a number of international agreements to which the Soviet Union is a signatory.

Meanwhile, we have made it clear to the six family members remaining in the Embassy that they are free to remain there in refuge.

We appreciate your concern for the welfare of the Pentecostalists and for their desire to emigrate to a place where they may live in freedom. The United States Government is doing everything possible to assist them in fulfilling this desire.

**Other points you may want to include;

- the Pentecostalists have received considerable high level USG attention
- the USG has made numerous representations to Soviet authorities (at all levels) on their behalf
- in November, they met with Vice President Bush and Secretary Shultz in Moscow who both reaffirmed the Administration's firm commitment to do everything possible to secure exit visas
- the Embassy has provided them with the best medical care; we have a doctor and a nurse practitioner who have performed periodic examinations
- none of them are on a hunger strike at this time.

Pentecostals
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MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

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SENSITIVE

March 2, 1983

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR WILLIAM P. CLARK

FROM: PAULA DOBRIANSKY (P)

SUBJECT: Soviet Message on Embassy Pentecostals

Attached at Tab A is a memorandum from Secretary Shultz to the President concerning a message on the Pentecostals delivered to State by Minister-Counselor Oleg Sokolov of the Soviet Embassy. At Tab I is a memorandum from you to the President which forwards the Secretary's memorandum.

RECOMMENDATION

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

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

Attachments:

Tab I Memorandum to the President

Tab A Memorandum from Secretary Shultz, February 28

cc: John Lenczowski
Carnes Lord
Roger Robinson
William Stearman

~~SECRET~~
Declassify on: SENSITIVE OADR

DECLASSIFIED
White House Guidelines, August 22, 1997
By *CVS* NARA, Date *7/9/02*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

~~SECRET~~SENSITIVEINFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: WILLIAM P. CLARK

SUBJECT: Soviet Message on Embassy Pentecostals

George Shultz forwarded you a memorandum (Tab A) concerning a message on the Pentecostals delivered to State by the Minister-Counselor at the Soviet Embassy, Sokolov. The message reiterates the standard Soviet position that the U.S. bears full responsibility for both keeping the Pentecostals in the U.S. Embassy and for encouraging them to leave. It also states that the families will not be persecuted if they leave and "the question of their leaving the USSR will be considered," with "account taken of all the circumstances involved."

Based on the tone of his discussions with Sokolov, George speculates that the Soviets may want to resolve this long-standing problem. He asserts that although this message adheres to the standard line, Soviet authorities may in fact permit the Pentecostals to emigrate once they return home. After George discusses this matter further with Ambassador Hartman, he will forward you his recommendations.

While this interpretation of Soviet actions cannot be ruled out, I am skeptical that the Soviets have any intention of permitting the Pentecostals to leave. In February 1982, one of the Pentecostals, Lidiya Vashchenko did return to Chernogorsk on the condition (as promised by Soviet authorities) that her exit visa application be reviewed. Since that time, she has been prevented from applying for emigration. Hence, if we are to convince the families to leave the Embassy, clear assurances by a high-level Soviet official that the Pentecostals will be permitted to emigrate should be attained.

Prepared by:
Paula Dobriansky

Attachment:

Tab A Memorandum from Secretary Shultz, February 28

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Declassify on: OADR

DECLASSIFIED
NLRR E06-114/9 #10598
BY KML NARA DATE 4/7/2011

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

1372

~~SECRET/SENSITIVE~~

February 28, 1983

To: THE PRESIDENT
From: George P. Shultz *GPS*
Subject: Soviet Message on Embassy Pentecostalists

Dobrynin is ill, and called to ask that I receive his Minister-Counselor, Sokolov, briefly this afternoon. Sokolov brought with him the text of a message from Moscow on the Pentecostalists in our Embassy there. The text is attached.

The message begins with the standard Soviet line that we are responsible for both the problem -- keeping Soviet citizens in the Embassy -- and the solution -- making them leave. It also reiterates previous statements that the Soviets will not "persecute" them if they leave. Then, in what Sokolov described as "the constructive part" of the message, it says that if they return to their home town in Siberia, "the question of their leaving the USSR will be considered," with "account taken of all the circumstances involved."

Formally, this does not go beyond what the Soviets have said before. Nevertheless, the Soviets are obviously trying to be responsive to your deep interest in the Pentecostalists' plight. Thus, although the written message keeps their formal line intact, they may in fact be offering a kind of assurance that emigration will be permitted if the families return home first.

There are two problems with this. First, the families have had several lifetimes of broken promises, and it may take a great deal more than this sort of vague and masked assurance (if that is what it is) to convince them to leave their refuge in the Embassy and apply for emigration from home. Second, given the vagueness of the message, we should be skeptical too.

I will be reviewing the issue of how we should respond, and will want to get the views of Ambassador Art Hartman, who will be here for consultations next week. I will then be giving you my recommendations.

Attachment: As stated

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NLRR ~~FOIA~~-114/9 #10607~~SECRET/SENSITIVE~~
DECL. OADRBY KML NARA DATE 4/7/2011

~~SECRET~~/SENSITIVE

TEXT OF SOVIET MESSAGE ON PENTECOSTALISTS

We already explained to the American side our principled position on this subject. Keeping Soviet citizens in the U.S. Embassy for such a long time is clearly illegal and abnormal. Their further stay there only aggravates the situation, and the responsibility for that fully rests with the American side. The resolution of this issue depends precisely on the American side: the above mentioned persons should leave the U.S. Embassy.

In this connection we can say definitely that no one is going to persecute them, there are no such intentions. Accordingly, after those persons return to the place of their residence, the question of their leaving the USSR will be considered. It will be done with account taken of all the circumstances involved in this matter.

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