

The original documents are located in Box 9, folder “Lewis, James - Immigration Request” of the Richard B. Cheney Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE HOLTON-ARMS SCHOOL

7303 RIVER ROAD

BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20034

July 12, 1976

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

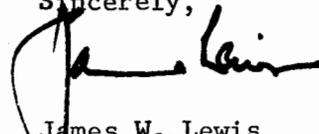
You may recall the anecdote mentioned in the attached letter from our friend from Michigan, Armistead Burwell. This was, as I recall, your introduction to Holton-Arms. Fortunately, the school operation carries in a somewhat smoother manner than did our household that particular Sunday afternoon.

Mr. Burwell has asked for assistance with a friend and colleague now living in Michigan whose family remains in Czechoslovakia. I should very much appreciate any support that might be possible for Mr. Peter Polasek and his family.

We are pleased to know of Susan's plans for the University of Kansas for January and hope very much that that will be everything you and she plan for it to be. It is a fine school and offers a tremendous program.

The Lewises and your friends at Holton-Arms are pulling for you, especially as you face the difficult weeks and months ahead. Our prayers and our hopes are high.

Sincerely,



James W. Lewis
Headmaster

J. Armistead Burwell Jr.
285 McMillan Road
Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan 48236

June 17, 1976

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President,

In 1971 a Mr. Peter Polasek, of Plzen, Czechoslovakia, escaped to Italy, and 1972 under the sponsorship of The Reverend Dr. Ray Kiely, of The Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, immigrated to the United States and settled in Grosse Pointe, Michigan. The people at Memorial Church, the community at large, and executives at Chrysler Corporation, where Mr. Polasek is employed as an electronics engineer, have all been impressed by his personal character and professional contributions. He will become a U.S. citizen in 1977.

Since Mr. Polasek's arrival in the United States, he has been trying to get his wife Daniela and daughter Petra (now 11) out of Czechoslovakia. The Czech government has to date denied their application for exit visas on various grounds and laws. Despite the 1975 Helsinki Agreement, their latest application was also denied.

During the past several years Mr. Polasek and friends have written to various Senators and the State Department, both in Washington and Prague. On May 12, 1976 I personally wrote to The Honorable Jack R. Perry, Charge d'Affairs Prague Department of State. I enclosed a letter to His Excellency Bohuslav Chnoupek, Czechoslovakian Minister of Foreign Affairs, pleading Mr. Polasek's case. I have attached Mr. Perry's response. From Mr. Perry's letter and contacts I have made with personal friends at the State Department, I am confident that everything possible is being done through official State Department channels and we are most appreciative of the assistance and timely responses we have received from that quarter. It seems, though, that some extra effort is required to break the stalemate, and this is my petition to you. I know that many times unofficial direct requests from the President or his office to foreign leaders or their representatives can carry great weight in the right circumstances. Just what circumstances would be most propitious I must leave to your judgment.

I am truly grateful for any assistance you can provide, especially in view of the great demands on your time and energies in this pre-election period.

Respectfully yours,


J. Armistead Burwell

Attach.

J. Armistead Burwell Jr.
285 McMillan Road
Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan 48236

June 17, 1976

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

Several years ago when you were entering your daughter Susan in Holton-Arms School you made a call on Jim Lewis at his home. At that time my mother, of Middleburg, Virginia, Mr. Theodore Hodges, Jr., of Grosse Pointe, Michigan, and I had the pleasure of meeting you. There is no reason the event should stick in your mind except for the somewhat comic opera circumstances. As you arrived Susan Lewis was frantically trying to reach a vet as the dog was having some type of fit. Jim Lewis had been working down at the creek and appeared covered with mud. Ted Hodges (at 6'3") and I (at 5'8") had borrowed some clothes from Jim (at 6') to play tennis and looked like Mutt and Jeff.

Upon introductions, my mother, who pays little attention to politics, asked what you did -- to which you replied, "I am an attorney." Her response was, "Looking at you I would have guessed you were a doctor." This exchange has been the subject of considerable subsequent ribbing in the family, and Ted wrote Mother some months later to the effect that he had noticed in the newspaper that "her friend Mr. Ford" had become Vice President of the United States. She beat him to the punch on a return note saying that she hoped he had observed that "her friend Mr. Ford" had now become President of the United States.

We have all wondered over the years whether the Gilbert-and-Sullivan aura of the scene struck you, if you had shared it with your family, and hoped it had afforded you as much pleasure in lighter moments as it has us. In any event, the Hodges and Lewises join the Burwells in wishing you well and to say that we are all working to see that in November "our friend Mr. Ford" remains President of the United States.

Because you may wish to use it in some official way, I have attached a separate and complete second letter on an entirely different matter that has my deep concern and I hope will merit yours.

With best regards,

J. Armistead Burwell
J. Armistead Burwell





THE HOLTON-ARMS SCHOOL

7303 RIVER ROAD

BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20034

July 12, 1976

Miss Susan Ford
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Susan:

We are taking care of the transcript to the University of Kansas and will send it to the attention of Mr. John A. Myers, the Director of Admissions. The opportunity at Kansas sounds really enticing and I hope the program you are going to enter will be both challenging and fulfilling for you. I could sense in our brief telephone conversation how much you are looking forward to your beginning there in January.

The enclosed letters are pretty much self-explanatory. A friend of ours from Michigan who met your father at our house several years ago is pursuing a problem relating to an employee of his company whose family remains in Czechoslovakia. He asks simply that this be brought to the President's attention, if this were possible. I should appreciate, therefore, your willingness to bring this to your dad's attention in the midst of everything else that is taking place this busy summer and fall.

With this letter go best wishes as always to you and what you are involved with. Your many friends here are only too anxious to assist you in those ways that would be helpful whenever this may be needed.

Cordially,

James W. Lewis
Headmaster



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Prague, Czechoslovakia

June 3, 1976

Mr. J. Armistead Burwell Jr.
285 McMillan Road
Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan 48236

Dear Mr. Burwell:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the efforts of Mrs. Daniela Polasek and her daughter Petra to emigrate from Czechoslovakia and join Mr. Polasek in Michigan.

Your letter to Foreign Minister Chnoupek was such a good and persuasive one that I have forwarded it to the Ministry under cover of an official Embassy note, with yet another expression of the Embassy's support for a reconsideration of the case. As you mentioned in your letter to me, we have been working on the Polasek case for some time now. In October of last year we included the Polaseks on a list of Divided Families which was formally presented to the Czechoslovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mr. Polasek has been in touch with us directly and through the Czechoslovak Desk of the Department of State.

While I do not wish to raise false hopes about the chances that Mrs. Polasek and her daughter will soon be granted exit permission, I must say that I think efforts such as yours on behalf of the Polaseks can only help. The Embassy will continue to press the Polaseks' case, and will of course inform Mr. Polasek of any developments.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jack R. Perry".

Jack R. Perry
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

WILBER M. BRUCKER, JR.
76 Merriweather Road
Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan 48236

June 18, 1976

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

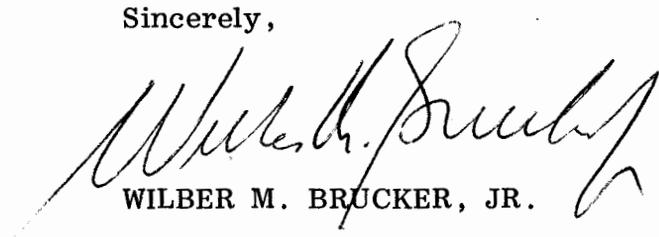
Dear Mr. President:

I wish to add my support to Mr. Burwell's letter of June 17, 1976 regarding the problem of Peter Polasek of Plzen, Czechoslovakia. I also am a member of Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, the minister of which is sponsoring Mr. Polasek.

Families split by political restrictions in Communist Bloc countries cause extreme anguish not only to the persons directly involved but to those of us who see the hardships such restrictions cause.

Any help you can afford in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



WILBER M. BRUCKER, JR.

WMBJr:pl

THE HOLTON-ARMS SCHOOL

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BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20034

Miss Susan Ford
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D. C. 20500

