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DESK FILE

August applied for visa Nov. 11, 1973

Notified May 29, 1974 and father arrested same day; August to Israel

Father 57 - 6 months solitary - trial for having accepted
bribes - conviction, Dec. 1974
-- 69 of 70 witnesses retracted charges
-- 1 perjured testimony

Poor physical condition

Strict regime at hard labor

Victor with mother, but has been told of expulsion

Mother has cancer of brain

Richard Coombs - Soviet Desk



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Poor physical condition

Strict regime of hard labor

Victor with mother but has been told
of expulsion

Mother has cancer of brain

~~Wichita~~

Richard Coombs - Secret Post



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Your visitors left the
attached with Boo.



AN INTERFAITH APPEAL FOR THE LIFE OF DR. MIKHAIL SHTERN

TO: Mr. Nikolai Podgorny
President U.S.S.R.,

As Christians and Jews who believe that human life is sacred, we appeal to you on behalf of Dr. Mikhail Shtern, former Chief of the Department of Endocrinology at the Vinnitsa Hospital.

For thirty years Dr. Shtern was dedicated to alleviating human suffering. He organized the first endocrinological clinic in the Western Ukraine and was responsible for the elimination of the thyroid diseases endemic to the area. In his capacity as Medical Director of a sanatorium for orphans he gave selflessly of his talents and compassion to children whose parents were killed by the Nazis.

Now Dr. Shtern faces eight years in a Soviet prison camp, and we fear that he cannot survive his term, for he suffers from heart disease and from a paralyzing spinal ailment.

As Dr. Shtern has already served one year in prison, we ask you in the name of humanity to grant him clemency and allow him to rejoin his family.



Rabbi A. Nathan Abramowitz
Dr. Alan Abramson
Mr. & Mrs. David Abrams
Rabbi Mendel Abrams
Dr. Richard I. Andron
Charlotte & Jerry Anker
Dr. Alvin Artz
Avrum I. Ashery
Rabbi Marvin Bash
Sally Bayer
Mr. & Mrs. Herbert N. Beller
Rabbi Kenneth R. Berger
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Charles & Deborah Roth
Rabbi Joseph M. Brandis
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Evelyn Fingermaier
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Sister Charlotte Fraser
Frances Gendelman
Irving Gendelman
Rabbi Norman S. Goldman
Dr. & Mrs. Alban Goldstein
Walter Golman

Rabbi Morris Gordon
Sally Gorfein
David Gorin
Ralph Gottlieb
Moses Gosowsky
Frieda Greenberg
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Sandy & Paul Jacoby
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Dr. David Kelsen
Rabbi Jerome Kestenbaum
Vladimir Kievsky
M. Kathryn Kirby
Dr. Alan Kirach
Dr. Bernard Kleinman
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Sol Margolis
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Marcia G. Masur
Marian McCarthy
Patricia McNeil
Zorka Melich
Dr. Edwin Mendelssohn
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Martin W. Spickler
M. A. Stanton
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Rev. John F. Steinbruck
Mr. & Mrs. J. Michael Stern
Morton J. Taake
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Gussie Vetram
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Sam Volkman
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Merr R. Wagshal

Marna Wagshal
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134 JACKSON STREET, HEMPSTEAD, NEW YORK
(516) 538-5454 (516) 741-8077

JUNE 17, 1975 PAGE 16A
WASHINGTON POST

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 18, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

BRENT SCOWCROFT

FROM:

PHILIP BUCHEN *P.W.B.*

SUBJECT:

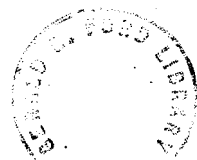
Dr. Mikhail Shtern

Congressman John Wydler from New York asked Max Friedersdorf to have me meet with Ms. Inez Weissman, who is President of the Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry, and with Dr. August Shtern in regard to August's father, Dr. Mikhail Shtern. The father is a noted Jewish endocrinologist from the Ukraine who has recently been sentenced by the Ukrainian Supreme Court to 8 1/2 years of hard labor, after a trial on charges brought only after the defendant declined to persuade his son August from emigrating to Israel. This case has apparently aroused considerable sympathy in this country and has resulted in an ad on June 8, 1975, in the New York Times and one in the Washington Post on June 17, 1975, copies of which are attached.

I also have an English-language account of the facts of the case as presented by the prisoner's attorney to the Ukrainian Supreme Court, if you care to see it.

The people who called on me would like the help of the President or Dr. Kissinger. I have, of course, made no comment on what, if anything, can be done in this regard. I assume that others in the Administration, as well as Members of the Congress, will be approached to help motivate this Administration to act. Therefore, I would appreciate your good counsel on what should be done to respond to the persons concerned.

Attachments



Tuesday 6/17/75

Meeting
6/18/75
10 a.m.

4:30 Cong. John Wydler's office called back to confirm 225-5516
a meeting tomorrow (Wednesday 6/18) at 10 a.m.
for Dr. August Shtern of Israel. Mrs. Singer's
mother is ill and won't be able to come with Dr. Shtern;
however, the President of the Long Island Committee
for Soviet Jewry -- Inez Weissman -- will accompany
him, as well as Miss Grayce Perlbinder.

I have advised that in the event something is urgently 225-5516
scheduled we will call Gloria Pershing in the
Congressman's office so that the meeting can be
rescheduled if necessary.



June 16, 1975

Dear Jack:

I have your letter of today's date about the possibility of Mrs. Lynn Singer and Dr. August Shern meeting with the Counsel to the President on June 16, 17 or 18.

Your letter has been passed along to Mr. Philip Buchen and you will hear from his office as soon as possible.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Max L. Friedersdorf
Assistant to the President

The Honorable John W. Wydler
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

~~Enc:~~ w/incoming to Philip Buchen for further action.

MLF:VO:vo



JOHN W. WYDLER
FIFTH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

MINORITY FLOOR MANAGER
COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES
N.Y. REPRESENTATIVE

DISTRICT OFFICE:
150 OLD COUNTRY ROAD
MINEOLA, NEW YORK 11501
TELEPHONE: CH 8-7676

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

SUBCOMMITTEES:
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ENERGY RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT
AND DEMONSTRATION
SPACE SCIENCE AND APPLICATION

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE:
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS AND
HUMAN RESOURCES

June 16, 1975

Mr. Max L. Friedersdorf
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Max:

My constituent Mrs. Lynn Singer, Vice President of the Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry, 134 Jackson Street, Hempstead, New York, has asked my help in arranging a meeting with the Counsel to the President, for herself and Dr. August Shtern of Israel.

I understand from Mrs. Singer that Dr. August Shtern is a native of the Ukraine who emigrated to Israel. He is currently visiting in the United States on behalf of his father, Dr. Mikhail Shtern, a noted Jewish endocrinologist from the Ukraine who is a Soviet prisoner-of-conscience, having recently been sentenced by the Ukrainian Supreme Court to some 8-1/2 years at hard labor.

Mrs. Singer and Dr. August Shtern will be here in Washington June 16, 17 and 18th and if at all possible would like to meet at that time, or at any other early date, with the Counsel to the President to discuss the case of Dr. Mikhail Shtern.

Any assistance you may properly be able to render on this request will be much appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

John W. Wydler,
Member of Congress

JWW:gp




Dennis Clift is the person who prepared
this memo for General Scowcroft.

Clift advises that the person in State
to talk to is: Mr. Mark Garrison
Soviet Union Affairs
632-3738

1-9 off of
4217 20⁵/₂ 26

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTONADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

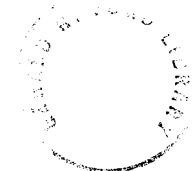
July 7, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: PHILIP BUCHEN
FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT 
SUBJECT: Dr. Mikhail Shtern

Thank you for your memorandum of June 18 concerning your recent meeting with Mrs. Weissman and Dr. August Shtern, during which they sought the help of the President or Secretary Kissinger in behalf of Shtern's father, Dr. Mikhail Shtern.

Our embassy in Moscow reports that Mikhail Shtern was arrested for the economic crime of speculation, but that this arrest was probably linked to his own advocacy of the right to emigrate and his son's emigration to Israel. The case is in the hands of the Soviet Government, which regards it strictly as an internal matter. Nevertheless, the expressions of concern in the U.S. -- a humanitarian concern -- have been made known quite clearly to the USSR. We feel that the best way to make progress on emigration and humanitarian issues is to continue to strengthen our relations with the Soviet Union on a broad front, thus encouraging Soviet flexibility and respect for issues so important to the United States.

As you know, the Soviet Union views emigration and criminal cases as extremely sensitive elements in our relations and tends to view each action in this area -- official or private -- as reflections of U.S. policy. I believe, as a general rule, it is in our best interests to turn inquiries or requests for meetings concerning Dr. Shtern or other similar cases over to the Department of State for action and reply. State is accustomed to dealing with these requests and with individuals wishing to express their concern over these sensitive cases. Furthermore, the State Department is usually aware of the specific circumstances involved in each special case and can therefore more appropriately deal with the problem.

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

SOVIET JEWRY COMMITTEE OF
CENTRAL FLORIDA
1701 Lee Road, #361-L
Winter Park, Florida 32789
July 21, 1975

Mr. Phillip Buchen
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Buchen,

Before President Ford departs to attend the European Conference on Security and Cooperation I appeal to you to use your influence to bring an urgent case to his attention.

Mikhail Edelman and his wife , Feiga, of Riga (Avotu 35, apt.11, Riga, Latvian SSR, USSR) have been waiting since 1971 for permission to leave the USSR for Israel. For two years he has not received any of the many letters sent to him from the USA. His letter of appeal, which was brought out of the USSR, is attached and explains his situation in full.

We see the joint Apollo-Soyuz Space Project as the latest expression of detante. Let human detente follow!

I urge you to do your utmost for the Edelmanns. Mrs. Edelman's health is failing. The President's action for them is the Edelmanns only hope.

Shalom.

Eva L. Ritt

Eva L. Ritt (Mrs. David)

Chairwoman - SOVIET JEWRY COMMITTEE
OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Captain Mikhail Edelman , 59 from Riga who has been waiting four years for exit visa while his daughter and grandchildren were permitted to go to Israel describes the situation in the following letter:

TO ALL JEWS OF THE WORLD: I, Mikhail Edelman, am 59 years old. I live in the USSR, Riga- Avotu 35, apt. 11. My only daughter, my grandchildren as well as all the rest of my relatives and sisters of my wife are living in Israel. Until March 1971 I worked as a captain of a merchant ship. Then our family applied for emigration to Israel and while my daughter and sisters were allowed to leave, my wife and I were refused. For the past four years these refusals have continued on the grounds of "secrecy" of my former work. In the beginning the KGB set a three year waiting period, but since then the period has been extended to five years, seven years and now again to five years. During these years of waiting I as a person "leading a parasitic and anti-social way of life" had to work as a carrier and now I am unemployed. I worked hard all my life. I became a sailor forty-two years ago and since 1946 I served as a captain with a " break" in the 1950s (imprisonment under Stalin). During the war I spent four years in a German concentration camp waiting for death every day. Now I wonder whether I will live to see my daughter and my grandchildren again. My wife, Feiga, now fifty-seven used to be a nurse during the war. She dedicated all her life to work and to her family. She is now very ill. Both of us suffer greatly from the separation from our dear ones. Every day of our forced detention in the USSR deprives us of our strength, health and hope. I have exhausted all methods of appeal in the USSR and I therefore appeal to the world public and to my People and request.....Help me go to Israel and join my daughters, my People and my Homeland.

Signed: Mikhail Edelman

SOVIET JEWRY COMMITTEE OF
CENTRAL FLORIDA
1701 Lee Road, #361-L
Winter Park, Florida 32789
July 21, 1975

Mr. Phillip Buchen
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Buchen,

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I urge you to do your utmost for the Edelmanns. Mrs. Edelman's health is failing. The President's action for them is the Edelmanns only hope.

Shalom.

Eva L. Ritt
Eva L. Ritt (Mrs. David)

Chairwoman - SOVIET JEWRY COMMITTEE
OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

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MGMWSHT HSA
1-041842A204 07/24/75
ICS IPMHENA HEM
01358 MGM HEMPSTEAD NY 100 07-23 0522P EDT
ZIP 20500

 **Mailgram**
western union



THIS MAILGRAM WAS TRANSMITTED ELECTRONICALLY BY WESTERN UNION TO A POST OFFICE NEAR YOU FOR DELIVERY

HON PHILIP BUCHAN
WHITE HOUSE PENN AVE
WASHINGTON DC 20500

WE ASK YOU TO USE YOUR GOOD OFFICES TO SUGGEST TO
PRESIDENT FORD THAT AS A REQUISITE FOR HIS ATTENDANCE AT THE
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN HELSINKI, THE CAUSE OF SOVIET
JEWRY BE ON THE AGENDA, AND A CONSTRUCTIVE CONCLUSION BE
NECESSARY-- I.E. THE RIGHT OF ALL THOSE WHO HAVE APPLIED FOR
EMIGRATION BE GRANTED VISAS, AND THOSE WHOSE INVITATIONS HAVE
NOT YET BEEN DELIVERED RECEIVE THEM WITH PERMISSION, WE ALSO ASK
THAT THE CASE OF DR MIKHAIL SHTERN BE INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA.
WE FEEL THAT IT IS IRONIC THAT A CONFERENCE CALLED ON BEHALF OF
REUNIFICATION AND FREEDOM FOR ALL DOES NOT INCLUDE THE CAUSE OF THE
JEWS IN THE SOVIET UNION, WE TAKE THE PRIVILEGE OF ASKING YOU TO
INTERCEDE DUE TO OUR MEETING WITH YOU AND YOUR INTEREST IN THE
CASE OF DR MIKHAIL SHTERN
UNION OF COUNCILS OF SOVIET JEWS

01:44 EST

MGMWSHT HSA



WESTERN UNION
1-041-405404 0754475
ICS 1-041-405404
01328 MEN NEWSPAPER NY 100 07-53 0555P EDT
319 50200

HON PHILIP BUCHAN
WHITE HOUSE PENN AVE
WASHINGTON DC 20500

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VIRGINIA 800 257 2221
WASHINGTON 800 648 4500
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WISCONSIN 800 325 5200
WYOMING 800 648 4500

OR DIAL WESTERN UNION'S INFOMASTER SYSTEM DIRECTLY:

FROM TELEX 6161

FROM TWX 910 420 1212

July 25, 1975

Dear Mr. Garrison:

Enclosed is correspondence involving the case of Mikhail Edelman and his wife. At the same time, I am also sending you a copy of my memo to General Scowcroft and his reply to me in the case of Dr. Mikhail Shtern.

I assume that these cases have already come to your attention, but if there are any further steps that are desirable, I trust you will take over.

Sincerely,

Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

Mr. Mark Garrison
Director
Office of Soviet Union
Affairs
Room 4217
Department of State
Washington, D. C. 20520

Enclosures



July 25, 1975

Dear Mr. Garrison:

Enclosed is correspondence involving the case of Mikhail Edelman and his wife. At the same time, I am also sending you a copy of my memo to General Scowcroft and his reply to me in the case of Dr. Mikhail Shtern.

I assume that these cases have already come to your attention, but if there are any further steps that are desirable, I trust you will take over.

Sincerely,

Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

Mr. Mark Garrison
Director
Office of Soviet Union
Affairs
Room 4217
Department of State
Washington, D. C. 20520

Enclosures



July 25, 1975

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Enclosures



July 25, 1975

*Garrison,
Mark*

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Room 4217
Department of State
Washington, D. C. 20520

Enclosures



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 26, 1975

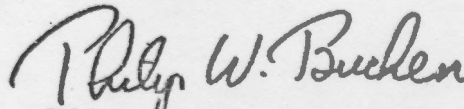
Dear Mrs. Ritt:

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The President is deeply concerned for those unable to exercise fundamental human rights -- including the right of emigration. The upcoming Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe which the President will soon be attending represents a step forward in improving relationships between the Soviet Union, on the one hand, and the United States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies, on the other.

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Sincerely,



Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

Mrs. David (Eva) L. Ritt
Chairwoman
Soviet Jewry Committee
of Central Florida
1701 Lee Road, #361-L
Winter Park, Florida 32789

cc: Mr. Mark Garrison
Department of State



MGMWSHT HSA
1-041842A204 07/24/75
ICS IPMHENA HEM
01358 MGM HEMPSTEAD NY 100 07-23 0522P EDT
ZIP 20500

western union

Mailgram



THIS MAILGRAM IS TRANSMITTED BY TELETYPE TO THE UNION TO BE DELIVERED TO YOU FOR DELIVERY

HON PHILIP BUCHAN
WHITE HOUSE PENN AVE
WASHINGTON DC 20500

WE ASK YOU TO USE YOUR GOOD OFFICES TO SUGGEST TO
PRESIDENT FORD THAT AS A REQUISITE FOR HIS ATTENDANCE AT THE
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN HELSINKI, THE CAUSE OF SOVIET
JEWRY BE ON THE AGENDA, AND A CONSTRUCTIVE CONCLUSION BE
NECESSARY-- I.E. THE RIGHT OF ALL THOSE WHO HAVE APPLIED FOR
EMIGRATION BE GRANTED VISAS, AND THOSE WHOSE INVITATIONS HAVE
NOT YET BEEN DELIVERED RECEIVE THEM WITH PERMISSION. WE ALSO ASK
THAT THE CASE OF DR MIKHAIL SHTERN BE INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA.
WE FEEL THAT IT IS IRONIC THAT A CONFERENCE CALLED ON BEHALF OF
REUNIFICATION AND FREEDOM FOR ALL DOES NOT INCLUDE THE CAUSE OF THE
JEWS IN THE SOVIET UNION, WE TAKE THE PRIVILEGE OF ASKING YOU TO
INTERCEDE DUE TO OUR MEETING WITH YOU AND YOUR INTEREST IN THE
CASE OF DR MIKHAIL SHTERN
UNION OF COUNCILS OF SOVIET JEWS

01:44 EST

MGMWSHT HSA



UNION OF COUNCILS FOR SOVIET JEWS

134 Jackson Street, Room 403
Hempstead, New York 11550
(516) 538-5454
(516) 741-8077

OFFICERS

Inez Weissman
PRESIDENT
Dr. Robert Wolf
1st VICE-PRESIDENT
Si Frumkin
2nd VICE-PRESIDENT
Irene Manekolsky
3rd VICE-PRESIDENT
Lynn Singer
TREASURER

July 24, 1975

Hon. Philip Buchan
The White House
Washington D.C

MEMBERS OF STEERING COMMITTEE

Dr. Louis Rosenblum
Howard Wexler
Stuart Wurtman

Dear Mr. Buchan,

I would like to again thank you for allowing us to meet with you and discuss the tragic case of Dr. Mikhail Shtern. We feel that the International Conference, to be held in Helsinki, serves as prime time for discussion of the general problems of Soviet Jews and the particular case of Dr. Mikhail Shtern. To ignore these issues would be a deceit.

We appeal to you to use your good offices to suggest to the President the need for the inclusion of Soviet Jewry in the Helsinki agenda.

Thank you for your concern and sympathies for the plight of Soviet Jews.

Sincerely,

Inez Weissman

Inez Weissman
President

IW:rw
enc.



UNION OF COUNCILS FOR SOVIET JEWS
Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry
134 Jackson Street, suite 403
Hempstead, New York 11550
(516) 538-5454
(516) 741-8077

for immediate release:

July 24, 19

UNION OF COUNCILS FOR SOVIET JEWS APPEALS TO FORD TO INCLUDE SOVIET
JEWRY ISSUE AND CASE OF DR. MIKHAIL SHTERN IN HELSINKI AGENDA

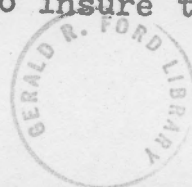
The national Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, with its headquarters in Hempstead, New York, appeals to President Ford for the inclusion of the problems of Soviet Jews, and particularly the case of Dr. Mikhail Shtern, the imprisoned Jewish endocrinologist who was sentenced to eight years in a Soviet labor camp on trumped up charges of bribery of two chickens, one goose, some vegetables, 70 eggs, and 770 rubles over a twenty year period, in the agenda of the International Conference to be held next week in Helsinki.

While visiting the United States, Dr. August Shtern, the son of Dr. Mikhail Shtern, had met with Philip Buchan, the top legal advisor to President Ford in a White House meeting, along with officers of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews. At that meeting, Mr. Buchan showed great interest in the case of Dr. Shtern, and the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews feels that the time has come for White House action.

Although the International Conference in Helsinki has been called on behalf of the problems of "reunification and freedom of all people," the Soviet Jewry question has been deliberately left out. Ms. Inez Weissman, president of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews and the Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry stated:

We feel that it would be a grave deceit to hold an international conference on 'reunification and freedom' and ignore the problem of Soviet Jews. The Soviet Union has, in the past months, increased the harrassment of Jews, from the denial of visas to the incarceration of innocent men like Dr. Shtern. The President must not allow the Helsinki conference to be a mockery, but substantive results pertaining to the Soviet Jewry issue must be forthcoming. Although the Soviet Union has, in the past, been a signatory to many documents deploring inhumane practices and supporting the right of freedom for all people, such as the Human Rights Declaration of the United Nations, in its practices, the Russian government has not adhered to its signature. We thus ask that President Ford not only demand that meaningful resolutions on behalf of Soviet Jews be passed and signed, but also carried out.

The various member councils of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, who are situated throughout the United States, have not only appealed to the President, but have asked their congressmen and senators to use their good offices and relations with the President to insure the placing of Soviet Jewry in the Helsinki agenda.



SOVIET JEWRY COMMITTEE OF
CENTRAL FLORIDA

1701 Lee Road, #361-L

Winter Park, Florida 32789

July 21, 1975

Mr. Phillip Buchen
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Buchen,

Before President Ford departs to attend the European Conference on Security and Cooperation I appeal to you to use your influence to bring an urgent case to his attention.

Mikhail Edelman and his wife , Feiga, of Riga (Avotu 35, apt.11, Riga, Latvian SSR, USSR) have been waiting since 1971 for permission to leave the USSR for Israel. For two years he has not received any of the many letters sent to him from the USA. His letter of appeal, which was brought out of the USSR, is attached and explains his situation in full.

We see the joint Apollo-Soyuz Space Project as the latest expression of detente. Let human detente follow!

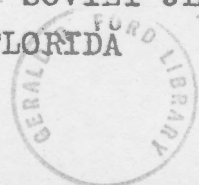
I urge you to do your utmost for the Edelmans. Mrs. Edelman's health is failing. The President's action for them is the Edelmans only hope.

Shalom,

Eva L. Ritt

Eva L. Ritt (Mrs. David)

Chairwoman - SOVIET JEWRY COMM
OF CENTRAL FLORIDA



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

4254

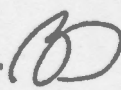
ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

July 7, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

PHILIP BUCHEN

FROM:

BRENT SCOWCROFT 

SUBJECT:

Dr. Mikhail Shtern

Thank you for your memorandum of June 18 concerning your recent meeting with Mrs. Weissman and Dr. August Shtern, during which they sought the help of the President or Secretary Kissinger in behalf of Shtern's father, Dr. Mikhail Shtern.

Our embassy in Moscow reports that Mikhail Shtern was arrested for the economic crime of speculation, but that this arrest was probably linked to his own advocacy of the right to emigrate and his son's emigration to Israel. The case is in the hands of the Soviet Government, which regards it strictly as an internal matter. Nevertheless, the expressions of concern in the U.S. -- a humanitarian concern -- have been made known quite clearly to the USSR. We feel that the best way to make progress on emigration and humanitarian issues is to continue to strengthen our relations with the Soviet Union on a broad front, thus encouraging Soviet flexibility and respect for issues so important to the United States.

As you know, the Soviet Union views emigration and criminal cases as extremely sensitive elements in our relations and tends to view each action in this area -- official or private -- as reflections of U.S. policy. I believe, as a general rule, it is in our best interests to turn inquiries or requests for meetings concerning Dr. Shtern or other similar cases over to the Department of State for action and reply. State is accustomed to dealing with these requests and with individuals wishing to express their concern over these sensitive cases. Furthermore, the State Department is usually aware of the specific circumstances involved in each special case and can therefore more appropriately deal with the problem.

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 18, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

BRENT SCOWCROFT

FROM:

PHILIP BUCHEN

T.W.B.

SUBJECT:

Dr. Mikhail Shtern

Congressman John Wydler from New York asked Max Friedersdorf to have me meet with Ms. Inez Weissman, who is President of the Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry, and with Dr. August Shtern in regard to August's father, Dr. Mikhail Shtern. The father is a noted Jewish endocrinologist from the Ukraine who has recently been sentenced by the Ukrainian Supreme Court to 8 1/2 years of hard labor, after a trial on charges brought only after the defendant declined to persuade his son August from emigrating to Israel. This case has apparently aroused considerable sympathy in this country and has resulted in an ad on June 8, 1975, in the New York Times and one in the Washington Post on June 17, 1975, ... copies of which are attached.

I also have an English-language account of the facts of the case as presented by the prisoner's attorney to the Ukrainian Supreme Court, if you care to see it.

The people who called on me would like the help of the President or Dr. Kissinger. I have, of course, made no comment on what, if anything, can be done in this regard. I assume that others in the Administration, as well as Members of the Congress, will be approached to help motivate this Administration to act. Therefore, I would appreciate your good counsel on what should be done to respond to the persons concerned.

Attachments



June 16, 1975

Dear Jack:

I have your letter of today's date about the possibility of Mrs. Lynn Singer and Dr. August Shtern meeting with the Counsel to the President on June 16, 17 or 18.

Your letter has been passed along to Mr. Philip Buchen and you will hear from his office as soon as possible.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Max L. Friedersdorf
Assistant to the President

The Honorable John W. Wydler
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

bcc: w/incoming to Philip Buchen for further action.

MLF:VO:vo



SECURITY FLOOR MANAGER
COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES
N.Y. REPRESENTATIVE

DISTRICT OFFICE:
150 OLD COUNTRY ROAD
MINHOLA, NEW YORK 11301
TELEPHONE: CH 8-7676

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

SUBCOMMITTEE
AVIATION AND TRANSPORTATION
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
ENERGY RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT
AND DEMONSTRATION
SPACE SCIENCE AND APPLICATION

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS AND
HUMAN RESOURCES

June 16, 1975

Mr. Max L. Friedersdorf
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Max:

My constituent Mrs. Lynn Singer, Vice President of the Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry, 134 Jackson Street, Hempstead, New York, has asked my help in arranging a meeting with the Counsel to the President, for herself and Dr. August Shtern of Israel.

I understand from Mrs. Singer that Dr. August Shtern is a native of the Ukraine who emigrated to Israel. He is currently visiting in the United States on behalf of his father, Dr. Mikhail Shtern, a noted Jewish endocrinologist from the Ukraine who is a Soviet prisoner-of-conscience, having recently been sentenced by the Ukrainian Supreme Court to some 8-1/2 years at hard labor.

Mrs. Singer and Dr. August Shtern will be here in Washington June 16, 17 and 18th and if at all possible would like to meet at that time, or at any other early date, with the Counsel to the President to discuss the case of Dr. Mikhail Shtern.

Any assistance you may properly be able to render on this request will be much appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

John W. Wyder,
Member of Congress

JWW:gp



July 26, 1975

Dear Mrs. Ritt:

Thank you very much for your letter of July 21, 1975, concerning the case of Mikhail Edelman and his wife of Riga.

The President is deeply concerned for those unable to exercise fundamental human rights -- including the right of emigration. The upcoming Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe which the President will soon be attending represents a step forward in improving relationships between the Soviet Union, on the one hand, and the United States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies, on the other.

Although the proposed declaration will not necessarily bring a solution to the problems you pose, it will represent a step forward toward reunification of families and toward increased human contacts and flow of information among the nations involved. In this way, the views of the U. S. Government and of organizations like yours may in time be more effectively conveyed and could alleviate the situation about which you are particularly concerned. I am at the same time sending a copy of your correspondence to the State Department.

Sincerely,

Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

Mrs. David (Eva) L. Ritt
Chairwoman
Soviet Jewry Committee
of Central Florida
1701 Lee Road, #361-L
Winter Park, Florida 32789

cc: Mr. Mark Garrison
Department of State



July 26, 1975

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Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

Mrs. David (Eva) L. Ritt
Chairwoman
Soviet Jewry Committee
of Central Florida
1701 Lee Road, #361-L
Winter Park, Florida 32789

cc: Mr. Mark Garrison
Department of State



July 28, 1975

*Soviet
Cares*

Dear Ms. Weissman:

Your mailgram concerning the President's visit to the International Conference in Helsinki did not reach me until Saturday, July 26, after the President's departure.

Although the issues you raise are not on the agenda for specific discussion in the limited time available for private meetings between the President and General Secretary Brezhnev, the general nature of the proposed declaration on Security and Cooperation in Europe does offer considerable hope. It will represent a step forward toward reunification of families and toward increased human contacts and flow of information among the nations involved. In this way, the views of organizations like yours may be more effectively conveyed and can alleviate the situation about which you are particularly concerned.

Thank you for your expressions of interest and concern.

Sincerely,

Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

Ms. Inez Weissman
President
Union of Councils for Soviet Jews
134 Jackson Street
Room 403
Hempstead, New York 11550



UNION OF COUNCILS FOR SOVIET JEWS

134 Jackson Street, Room 403
Hempstead, New York 11550
(516) 538-5454
(516) 741-8077

OFFICERS

Inez Weissman
PRESIDENT
Dr. Robert Wolf
1st VICE-PRESIDENT
Si Frumkin
2nd VICE-PRESIDENT
Irene Manekofsky
3rd VICE-PRESIDENT
Lynn Singer
TREASURER

July 24, 1975

Hon. Philip Buchan
The White House
Washington D.C

MEMBERS OF STEERING COMMITTEE

Dr. Louis Rosenblum
Howard Wexler
Stuart Wurtman

MEMBER COUNCILS

Western Region
Arizona Council
on Soviet Jews
Bay Area Council
on Soviet Jewry
San Diego Council
for Soviet Jewry
Southern California
Council for Soviet Jews
Soviet Jewry Action Group

Central Region
Cincinnati Council
for Soviet Jewry
Cleveland Council on
Soviet Anti-Semitism
Detroit Committee
for Soviet Jewry
Omaha Committee
for Soviet Jewry

Eastern Region
Action for Soviet Jewry
(Boston)
Greater Philadelphia Council
for Soviet Jews
Long Island Committee for
Soviet Jewry
Oceanfront Council
for Soviet Jews
South Florida Conference
on Soviet Jewry
Washington Committee
for Soviet Jewry

Dear Mr. Buchan,

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We appeal to you to use your good offices to suggest to the President the need for the inclusion of Soviet Jewry in the Helsinki agenda.

Thank you for your concern and sympathies for the plight of Soviet Jews.

Sincerely,

Inez Weissman

Inez Weissman
President

IW:rw
enc.



UNION OF COUNCILS FOR SOVIET JEWS
Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry
134 Jackson Street, suite 403
Hempstead, New York 11550
(516) 538-5454
(516) 741-8077

for immediate release:

July 24, 1971

UNION OF COUNCILS FOR SOVIET JEWS APPEALS TO FORD TO INCLUDE SOVIET
JEWRY ISSUE AND CASE OF DR. MIKHAIL SHTERN IN HELSINKI AGENDA

The national Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, with its headquarters in Hempstead, New York, appeals to President Ford for the inclusion of the problems of Soviet Jews, and particularly the case of Dr. Mikhail Shtern, the imprisoned Jewish endocrinologist who was sentenced to eight years in a Soviet labor camp on trumped up charges of bribery of two chickens, one goose, some vegetables, 70 eggs, and 770 rubles over a twenty year period, in the agenda of the International Conference to be held next week in Helsinki.

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We feel that it would be a grave deceit to hold an international conference on 'reunification and freedom' and ignore the problems of Soviet Jews. The Soviet Union has, in the past months, increased the harassment of Jews, from the denial of visas to the incarceration of innocent men like Dr. Shtern. The President must not allow the Helsinki conference to be a mockery, but substantive results pertaining to the Soviet Jewry issue must be forthcoming. Although the Soviet Union has, in the past, been a signatory to many documents deploring inhumane practices and supporting the right of freedom for all people, such as the Human Rights Declaration of the United Nations, in its practices, the Russian government has not adhered to its signature. We thus ask that President Ford not only demand that meaningful resolutions on behalf of Soviet Jews be passed and signed, but also carried out.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 31, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: BILL BAROODY

FROM: PHILIP BUCHEN

T.W.B.

Attached is an incoming letter from the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews requesting me to address its annual conference on August 29 - September 1, 1975, in Hempstead, New York.

I plan to decline but am submitting this letter to you for advice as to whether I should offer someone else from the Administration to appear.

Attachment

*Soviet
Chairs*



UNION OF COUNCILS FOR SOVIET JEWS

134 Jackson Street, Room 403
Hempstead, New York 11550
(516) 538-5454
(516) 741-8077

OFFICERS

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Dr. Robert Wolf
1st VICE-PRESIDENT
Si Frumkin
2nd VICE-PRESIDENT
Irene Manekolsky
3rd VICE-PRESIDENT
Lynn Singer
TREASURER

July 29, 1975

Hon. Philip Buchan
The White House
Washington D.C.

MEMBERS OF STEERING COMMITTEE

Dr. Louis Rosenblum
Howard Wexler
Stuart Wurtman

Dear Mr. Buchan,

MEMBER COUNCILS

Western Region
Arizona Council
on Soviet Jews
Bay Area Council
on Soviet Jewry
San Diego Council
for Soviet Jewry
Southern California
Council for Soviet Jews
Soviet Jewry Action Group

The Union of Councils for Soviet Jews is holding its annual conference on August 29 through September 1, 1975, at the Holiday Inn, Hempstead, New York, for the purpose of reviewing the current status of Jews in the Soviet Union. Our members represent councils throughout the United States.

It would be our pleasure to have you address the conference on Saturday, August 30, as a spokesman for the President and the Administration. Our national membership would look forward to the privilege of meeting with you and hearing your remarks.

We eagerly await your response and thank you for your consideration.

Central Region

Cincinnati Council
for Soviet Jewry
Cleveland Council on
Soviet Anti-Semitism
Detroit Committee
for Soviet Jewry
Omaha Committee
for Soviet Jewry

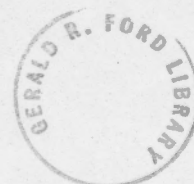
Eastern Region

Action for Soviet Jewry
(Boston)
Greater Philadelphia Council
for Soviet Jews
Long Island Committee for
Soviet Jewry
Oceanfront Council
for Soviet Jews
South Florida Conference
on Soviet Jewry
Washington Committee
for Soviet Jewry

Sincerely,

Lynn Singer
Lynn Singer

LS:rw



July 26, 1975

Dear Mrs. Ritt:

Thank you very much for your letter of July 21, 1975, concerning the case of Mikhail Edelman and his wife of Riga.

The President is deeply concerned for those unable to exercise fundamental human rights -- including the right of emigration. The upcoming Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe which the President will soon be attending represents a step forward in improving relationships between the Soviet Union, on the one hand, and the United States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies, on the other.

Although the proposed declaration will not necessarily bring a solution to the problems you pose, it will represent a step forward toward reunification of families and toward increased human contacts and flow of information among the nations involved. In this way, the views of the U. S. Government and of organizations like yours may in time be more effectively conveyed and could alleviate the situation about which you are particularly concerned. I am at the same time sending a copy of your correspondence to the State Department.

Sincerely,

Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

Mrs. David (Eva) L. Ritt
Chairwoman
Soviet Jewry Committee
of Central Florida
1701 Lee Road, #361-L
Winter Park, Florida 32789

cc: Mr. Mark Garrison
Department of State



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 9, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR

Mr. Mark J. Garrison
Director, Office of Soviet Union Affairs

Per our conversation, I have enclosed at Tab A the most recent letter which Mr. Buchen received from Mrs. Ritt, Chairwoman-Soviet Jewry Committee. Mrs. Ritt's December 22 letter mentions a couple named Tamara and Emanuel Neifach, in addition to the Edelmans.

Enclosed at Tab B is a copy of Mr. Buchen's July 26 letter to Mrs. Ritt in which he mentions the upcoming Helsinki conference as a hopeful sign for the reunification of families.

Your advice as to how to handle the December 22 letter would be much appreciated. In particular, we would need your direction on how to respond to Mrs. Ritt's statement about the Helsinki Agreement and on whether there is anything positive we can report about the Edelmans' exit visa problems.

Thank you.

Bobbie Greene Kilberg
Bobbie Greene Kilberg
Associate Counsel to the President



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 26, 1975

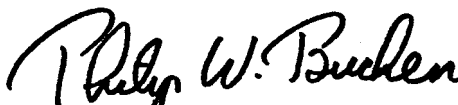
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Sincerely,



Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

Mrs. David (Eva) L. Ritt
Chairwoman
Soviet Jewry Committee
of Central Florida
1701 Lee Road, #361-L
Winter Park, Florida 32789

cc: Mr. Mark Garrison
Department of State



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 27, 1976

Dear Mrs. Ritt:

Thank you for your letter of December 22 in which you discuss the plight of the Mikhail Edelman and Emanuel Neifach families of Riga, who have been refused Soviet exit permission to emigrate to Israel.

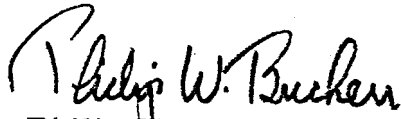
The Soviet Government is well aware of the deep concern of the American people and Government about the situation of Soviet Jews refused the right to leave the USSR and settle in the country of their choice. We believe our Government's sustained support for the principle of free emigration and our raising of this human rights issue with Soviet officials at all levels have been important factors influencing Soviet policies which have made it possible for over 100,000 Soviet Jews to emigrate since 1971. However, the U.S. Government has no standing to raise individual cases of Soviet citizens who wish to depart the USSR for Israel. We do, of course, make frequent representations with the Soviet authorities via our Embassy in Moscow on behalf of individuals who have applied to leave for the United States, and we hope our more general efforts to promote freedom of emigration will benefit families such as the Edelmanns and Neifachs.

Although the Final Act of the Conference in Helsinki is not a treaty with legally binding commitments, it does set standards for the behavior of the signatories in a number of areas, including human rights. Seen in this context we believe it represents an important step which lends added support to our interest in promoting concepts such as family reunification.



I sincerely hope that the Edelman and Neifach families are reunited very soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Philip W. Buchen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Philip" being more prominent and the last name "Buchen" following in a similar style.

Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

Mrs. David Ritt
Chairwoman-Soviet Jewry Committee
Central Florida Jewish Community Council
851 North Maitland Avenue
Maitland, Florida 32751



MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

392

January 20, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR BOBBIE GREENE KILBERG

FROM: *JW* Jeanne W. Davis *mt*
SUBJECT: Reply to Mrs. Ritt

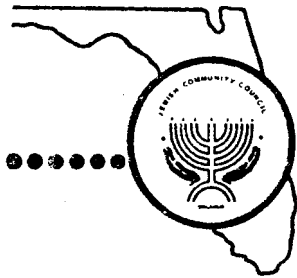
By memorandum of January 9, you requested the Department of State to provide a recommended reply to a letter received by Mr. Buchen from Eva L. Ritt of the Central Florida Jewish Community Council (Tab B).

We concur in the proposed reply which the Department of State has forwarded (at Tab A).



Central Florida Jewish Community Council

851 NORTH MAITLAND AVENUE / MAITLAND, FLORIDA 32751 / 305 645-5933



HAROLD H. BENOW
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 22, 1975

Mr. Phillip Buchen
Counsel to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Buchen,

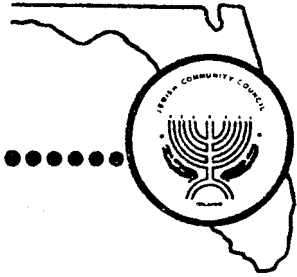
I wish to bring two cases of severe suffering to President Ford's attention.

Zipperah and Mikhail Edelman (Avotu 35, apt. 11, RIGA, LATVIAN SSR, USSR) have been waiting over six years to emigrate to Israel to be reunited with their only daughter and her family. Recently the OVIR (RIGA, LATVIAN SSR, USSR) has hinted at the possibility of issuing them an exit permit in January, 1976. A letter from the President to the OVIR urging them to issue the Edelmanns their exit visa is of a great urgency and would be of supreme help!

Also in RIGA are Tamara and Emanuel Neifach (Suverova St. No. 113, Apt. 51, RIGA, LATVIAN SSR, USSR) and their daughter-in-law Maria. Maria expects her first child in two months. Her husband has been in Israel since October, 1975. The Neifachs have been waiting 12 years for permission to emigrate to Israel. Again I ask for President

Central Florida Jewish Community Council

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HAROLD H. BENOW
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ford to write to the OVIR(OVIR, RIGA, LATVIAN SSR, USSR) to urge them to grant the required exit visas.

Just two letters by the President may bring freedom to these people. I hope you can convince the President to act on behalf of the Edelmans and Neifachs.

These are just two cases where the Soviet government has not lived up to the Helsinki Agreement. What actions is the President taking to pressure the Soviet Union to comply?

Thanking you for your kind attention to my appeal

1701 Lee Road, apt. 361-L
Winter Park, Florida 32789

Sincerely,

Eva L. Ritt (Mrs. David)

Chairwoman-Soviet Jewry Committee

P.S. please send me copies of correspondence on behalf of the Edelmans and Neifachs



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 26, 1975

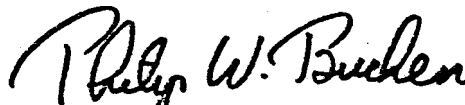
Dear Mrs. Ritt:

Thank you very much for your letter of July 21, 1975, concerning the case of Mikhail Edelman and his wife of Riga.

The President is deeply concerned for those unable to exercise fundamental human rights -- including the right of emigration. The upcoming Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe which the President will soon be attending represents a step forward in improving relationships between the Soviet Union, on the one hand, and the United States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies, on the other.

Although the proposed declaration will not necessarily bring a solution to the problems you pose, it will represent a step forward toward reunification of families and toward increased human contacts and flow of information among the nations involved. In this way, the views of the U. S. Government and of organizations like yours may in time be more effectively conveyed and could alleviate the situation about which you are particularly concerned. I am at the same time sending a copy of your correspondence to the State Department.

Sincerely,



Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

Mrs. David (Eva) L. Ritt
Chairwoman
Soviet Jewry Committee
of Central Florida
1701 Lee Road, #361-L
Winter Park, Florida 32789

cc: Mr. Mark Garrison
Department of State

