

**The original documents are located in Box C53, folder “Presidential Handwriting, 12/9/1976” of the Presidential Handwriting File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

### **Copyright Notice**

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

December 9, 1976

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: BRENT SCOWCROFT  
FROM: JIM CONNOR JEC  
SUBJECT: Use of the Parole Authority for  
Soviet Jewish Refugees

The attached memorandum was returned in the President's outbox with the following notation:

"Max Fisher talked with me and gave me the attached.

What is status and your recommendations? "

Please follow up with appropriate action.

cc: Dick Cheney

Attachment:

Memo from Max Fisher to President on above subject  
dated 12/7/76

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Brent Seweroff

Max Fisher talked  
with me + gave me the  
attached.

What is status of  
your recommendations?

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

May 7<sup>th</sup> -

Jewish emigrants in  
Rome - probably  
3000.

Talked with Brent S.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

December 7, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: MAX FISHER

SUBJECT: USE OF THE PAROLE AUTHORITY FOR  
SOVIET JEWISH REFUGEES

Some of the Jews leaving the Soviet Union choose to settle in the United States. A limited number each month qualify under U.S. immigration laws for "third country processing" visas issued to them by the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. Others receive Israeli visas and then "drop out" along the way. For both groups Rome is the intermediate stop before entry into the United States.

In Rome the refugees are supported by voluntary agencies which, in turn, are funded by the U.S. government. Refugees have traditionally been processed into the United States in the following manner. The heads of households receive conditional entry permits which are allocated by the Department of State. The remaining members of a family enter under non-preference visas which are allocated by the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Both State and INS have exhausted their yearly maximum number of permits under these two categories. (They are used worldwide and not just for Soviet Jews.) As a result, close to 3,000 Soviet Jews are now stuck in Rome until new numbers become available next year. The total may grow to 3,500 by the end of this month. Those who wish to come to the United States (about 75-80%) will all eventually get processed in, but it will take many months. In the meantime they are a financial burden on the U.S. and their growing numbers are of concern to the Italians. They also have increased difficulty in readjusting because they can neither work nor get permanently settled during the months they are in Rome.

Once before a similar situation developed and Attorney General Mitchell exercised his parole authority to bring in to the U.S. a group of Soviet Jews. I believe the parole authority should again be exercised.

In January the law provides for some increase in the number of slots which will be available each year to INS and State and if the current backlog is cleared a similar one would not again develop for several months. If, as we hope, the rate of emigration increases, we would in any event have to cope with that new situation.

I have talked with Brent Scowcroft and Larry Eagleburger about this situation. The Attorney General could simply invoke the parole authority on his own, but the pattern in the past has apparently been to have an initial request from the State Department. I believe the State Department will make such a request in this instance. There should also be Congressional consultation. On the House side, Cong. Eilberg is the key figure and he would be entirely for the use of the parole authority. On the Senate side, Senator Eastland has typically been somewhat reluctant to see the parole authority used, but I understand he may have ceded some of his committee jurisdiction over this matter to Senator Kennedy who would probably be supportive.

I wanted you to be aware of this problem. I feel quite strongly that it is appropriate for your Administration to act now. It is the right thing to do on both humanitarian and financial grounds.