

*Handwritten scribble*

My dear Mr. President:

I'm sorry to be so long in answering your letter to me and can only offer as an excuse the problems of settling into a routine after my hospitalization. I ask your pardon.

I won't attempt a point-by-point response to your letter because I agree with your observation that these matters are better discussed in person than in writing. Needless to say, we are not in agreement on a number of points raised in both my letter and yours.

There is one matter, however, which I feel I want to bring to your attention. All information having to do with my Government's practices and policies, past and present, is available to me now that I hold this office. I have thoroughly investigated the matter of the man Anatolii Scharanskii, an inmate serving a 13-year sentence in a Soviet prison. I can assure you he was never involved in any way with any agency of the United States Government. I have seen news stories in the Soviet press suggesting that he was engaged in espionage for our country. Let me assure you this is absolutely false.

Recently his wife called upon me. They were married and spent one day together before she emigrated to Israel, assuming that he would follow shortly thereafter. I believe true justice would be done if he were released and allowed to join her.

If you could find it in your heart to do this, the matter would be strictly between us, which is why I'm writing this letter by hand.

DECLASSIFIED

NLS FBI-OLD #9

BY dlb NARA, DATE 6/27/00

**TOP SECRET**

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While on this subject, may I also enter a plea on behalf of the two families who have been living in most uncomfortable circumstances in our embassy in Moscow for three years. The seven members of the Vaschenko and Chmykhalov families are Pentecostal Christians who fear leaving the embassy without permission to emigrate to the United States, where they wish to become affiliated with the large American Pentecostal Community. These people desire nothing more than to join their co-religionists who would, I know, provide for them here if they were allowed to come to the United States.

Again, as in the case of Scharanskii, this is between the two of us, and I will not reveal that I made any such requests. I'm sure, however, you understand that such actions on your part would contribute to lessening my problems in future negotiations between our two countries.

Sincerely,

~~TOP SECRET~~