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Date: 1979 February 6, 00:00 (Tuesday)
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TAGS: OGEN - Operations--General (/plusd/?
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Enclosure: -- N/A or Blank --
Office Origin: -- N/A OR BLANK --
Office Action: ACTION EUR - BUREAU OF EUROPEAN AND
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From: LENINGRAD OR-M (/PLUSD/?
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RUSSIA SAINT PETERSBURG (/PLUSD/?
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To: DEPARTMENT OF STATE (/PLUSD/?
Q=&QFDESTINATION=DEPARTMENT OF STATE#RESULT)
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Archive Status: Electronic Telegrams
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Decla
Department of State E
Mar 2014

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT).

2. I WOULD LIKE TO ELABORATE ON MY HASTILY WRITTEN REMARKS REGARDING THE LENINGRAD-SAN FRANCIS
RELATIONSHIP TO AVOID ANY MISINTERPRETATION. MY PURPOSE
IN WRITING MAYOR DIANE FEINSTEIN WOULD BE AS FOLLOWS:

(A) TO ENCOURAGE THE SAN FRANCISCO AUTHORITIES TO DISCUSS
WITH THE JEWISH RELIGIOUS LEADERS A MORE REALISTIC QUID
THAN THE RELEASE OF 100,000 JEWS FOR THE QUO OF SUPPORTING
A SISTER-CITY RELATIONSHIP, NAMELY THE RELEASE OF SOVIET
JEWS, NOTABLY THOSE ON OUR REPRESENTATION LISTS, WHOM WE
CAN IDENTIFY AS BEING IN LENINGRAD'S JURISDICTION.

(B) TO SUGGEST TO THE MAYOR'S OFFICE THAT, IF IT HAS SOME
ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THE JEWISH LEADERSHIP, IT MIGHT WISH
THEN TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM DISCREETLY WITH ZINCHUK, WHO
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HAS APPARENTLY BUILT UP A WIDE CIRCLE OF LOCAL ADMIRERS
(AS MEMBER OF THE BOHEMIAN GROVE AND COMMONWEALTH CLUBS,
ETC.). ANY PROMINENT SAN FRANCISCANS VISITING LENINGRAD

COULD CONVEY THE SAME MESSAGE, PARTICULARLY IF ZINCHUK
TOOK STEPS TO SEE THEY WERE WELL RECEIVED.
(C) TO STRESS TO THE SAN FRANCISCO AUTHORITIES THAT THIS

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APPROACH WOULD HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF SUCCESS, IF USG
DID NOT APPEAR TO BE DIRECTLY INVOLVED, AND THE CITY COULD
CLAIM FULL CREDIT FOR ANY JEWS RELEASED BY THE LENINGRAD
AUTHORITIES. THOUGH I WOULD NOT GET INTO THE
MIDDLE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, I WOULD BE PREPARED TO FIND
AN APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY IN LENINGRAD TO DISCUSS "THE
MAYOR'S PROBLEM" AS IT WAS EXPLAINED TO ME, NOTING THAT
THERE IS SUPPORT IN PRINCIPLE FOR THE SISTER-CITY
RELATIONSHIP, BUT SUGGESTING THAT THERE CANNOT BE ANY
MOVEMENT ON THE QUESTION SO LONG AS THERE ARE A NUMBER
OF LENINGRAD JEWS KNOWN IN SAN FRANCISCO TO HAVE BEEN
REFUSED EXIT VISAS.

3. THERE MAY BE SOME ADDED INDUCEMENTS FOR BOTH SIDES
AT THIS TIME. IF THE LENINGRAD RELEASE TOOK PLACE IN
THE CONTEXT OF EXPANDED EMIGRATION IN 1978 AND SOME
LARGER SUMMIT GESTURES, THE JEWISH COMMUNITY SHOULD FIND
IT EASIER TO TRIM BACK ITS DEMANDS. ZINCHUK AND THE
SOVIETS GENERALLY MAY ALSO BE CONCERNED AT THE
PROSPECT THAT SAN FRANCISCO MAY CHOOSE TO ESTABLISH A
SISTER-CITY RELATIONSHIP WITH SOME CHINESE CITY BEFORE
LENINGRAD, FOLLOWING THE ARRIVAL OF THE CHINESE CG.
I MIGHT SUGGEST THAT THE CITY AUTHORITIES HINT AT THIS
POSSIBILITY IN THEIR DEALINGS WITH ZINCHUK. (DEPUTY
MAYOR TEITELBAUM STRUCK ME AS A SAVVY, SUBTLE PERSON
WHO COULD PLAY ANEFFECTIVE MIDDLEMAN ROLE, IF HE
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CHOSE; HE SEEMED WILLING IF NOT ENTHUSIASTIC.) IF THE
FBI IS CORRECT IN ITS IMPRESSION THAT ZINCHUK MAY BE
PREPARING TO LEAVE SOMETIME THIS YEAR, HE COULD ALSO
HAVE A PERSONAL INTEREST IN CROWNING HIS STAY BY
ESTABLISHING A SISTER-CITY RELATIONSHIP.

4. FINALLY, IF ONE OR THE OTHER SIDE BALKS, I CANNOT

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ACTION EUR-03

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LENINGRAD 00408

SEE THAT WE LOSE MUCH. AND WE MAY SUCCEED IN BRINGING
INCREASED PRESSURE TO BEAR ON THE SOVIETS IN CONNECTION
WITH OUR HARDCORE LENINGRAD REFUSENIK CASES. BUCHANAN

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