



SENATOR Lawton Chiles OF FLORIDA

United States Senate • Washington, D.C. 20510 • 202/224-5274

CONTACT: Jack Pridgen
202/224-9440

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 25, 1987

SENATE ENDORSES CHILES' SUMMIT HUMAN RIGHTS APPEAL

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- In letters cosigned by the entire Senate, Sen. Lawton Chiles, D-Fl, today urged President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev to keep human rights high on the summit agenda.

"The focus of the December summit is arms control. But there is another important subject that must be addressed," Chiles said. "That's the problem of human rights in the Soviet Union. These letters are a statement from the full U.S. Senate that this issue cannot be swept under the rug."

In his letter to Gorbachev, Chiles said that despite the release of big-name dissidents and the increase of Jewish emigration, he is aware that Soviet human rights violations persist, particularly against Jewish dissidents.

"The Soviet Union is party to the Helsinki Accords and other international human rights agreements," Chiles wrote. "Your adherence to these accords is important for the improving of relations between our two countries."

-more-

United States Senate

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November 18, 1987

HUMAN RIGHTS & THE SUMMIT AGENDA

Dear Colleague:

As you know, many thousands of people from across the country will gather at the Ellipse on the eve of the summit to express their solidarity with the Jewish minority in the Soviet Union.

The purpose of the mobilization is to serve as a reminder that Soviet emigration and human rights should feature prominently on the summit agenda.

We hope to have every United States Senator join us in reinforcing this message by signing the attached letters to President Reagan and Secretary Gorbachev.


Please call Ken Wolf with Sen. Chiles at 4-1359 or Andy Semmel with Sen. Lugar at 4-4814 by Tuesday, Nov. 24th to sign on to the letters. Signatures will be collected on Wednesday, Nov. 25th.

Sincerely,


Richard Lugar, U.S.S.


Lawton Chiles, U.S.S.


Paul Sarbanes, U.S.S.


Arlen Specter, U.S.S.

United States Senate

November 30, 1987

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

Dear Mr. President:

As you prepare for the summit next week, we would like to request that you keep the subject of human rights high on the agenda, and we are happy to see signals that this is your intention.

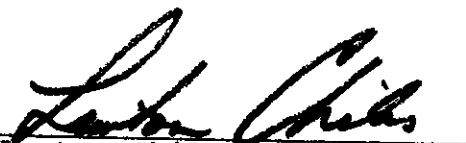
Mr. President, in your discussions with Mr. Gorbachev you may want to describe what took place on the Ellipse the evening before his arrival, when many thousands of people from across the country gathered there to share this one message: we will not turn our backs on the plight of the Jewish minority and others in the Soviet Union who are denied their human rights.

As you know, many thousands of Soviet Jews currently seek to emigrate to Israel and to practice and study their religion and culture freely. While we are encouraged by positive steps taken recently by the Soviet government in this regard, such as the release of a number of prisoners of conscience, the granting of exit visas to several prominent long-time refuseniks, and the increase in the overall level of Jewish emigration, we remain concerned that harassment of activists continues and that emigration levels are still far below expectations. We are also concerned about the apparent increase in refusals based on alleged possession of "state secrets," often in cases where security clearance was never held or had long since expired.


Mr. President, we encourage you to continue pressing Secretary Gorbachev, as you have done in the past, on the Soviet human rights record and the emigration process. It is imperative that we remind the Soviet government, as signatories to numerous international accords, of their obligation to uphold human rights and freedoms for all citizens of the Soviet Union.

Sincerely,


Richard Lugar, U.S.S.


Lawton Chiles, U.S.S.


Paul Sarbanes, U.S.S.


Arlen Specter, U.S.S.

United States Senate

November 30, 1987

General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev
c/o Embassy of the Union of Soviet
Socialist Republics
1 Andrei Sakharov Plaza
Washington, D.C. 20036

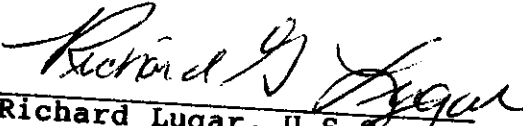
Dear General Secretary:

We, the undersigned United States Senators, are writing to request that the issue of human rights and emigration be forthrightly addressed in your upcoming summit meeting with President Reagan.


While we welcome your government's release of many highly visible dissidents and the increase in Jewish emigration during the past year, we remain cognizant of the fact that the Soviet Jewish minority, in particular, is still denied its basic human rights. Though many have emigrated, there are still countless others denied the right to leave; and those who choose to remain are denied the right to learn and practice their cultural and religious tradition openly.


The Soviet Union is party to the Helsinki Accords and other international human rights agreements. Your adherence to these accords is important for the improving of relations between our two countries.

Sincerely,


Richard Lugar, U.S.S.


Lawton Chiles, U.S.S.


Paul Sarbanes, U.S.S.


Arlen Specter, U.S.S.

United States Senate

November 26, 1987

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

Dear Mr. President:

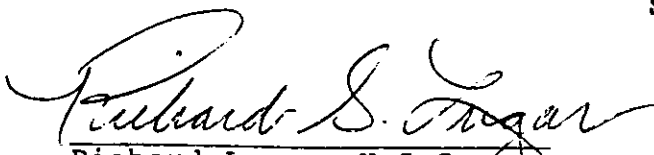
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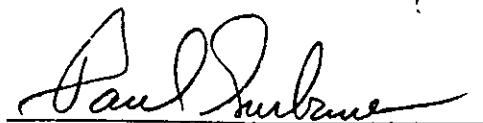
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Paul Sarbanes, U.S.S.


Arlen Specter, U.S.S.

Frank R. Lautenberg

Samuel R. Thurman

Don Nickles

Frank Lautenberg

Bucie Kent

Sam Thurman

Jeff Bawa

Bucie Kent

Sam Thurman

Sam Thurman

Sam Thurman

Joe Biden

Don Riegle

Jay Rockefeller

Tom Harkin

John Glenn

Frank Lautenberg

Chuck Grassley

Kent Conrad

Sam Thurman

Paul Harkin

Sam Thurman

Steve Symons

Terry Sanford

Hampton Casler

Strom Thurmond

Chie Hecht

Alvin Dixon

Pat Stevens

Jake Lamm

Jim Lasser

Howell Heflin

Frank W. Murphy

Al Dixon

Pat Boyd

Brie Winters

Gordon Murphy

Floyd Bentson

2005

Danny Evans

John Danforth

Rob Kiew

Paul Dine

United States Senate

November 26, 1987

General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev
c/o Embassy of the Union of Soviet
Socialist Republics
1 Andrei Sakharov Plaza
Washington, D.C. 20036


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Frank Lautenberg

Sam Nunn

Don Nickles

Lucy Boschwitz

Bucurich

Strom

Jeff Bawa

Bill Bradley

Strom

Clinton P.

Glenn

Joe Biden

Ken Riegle

Jay Rockefeller

Tom Harkin

John Glenn

Frank Lautenberg

Chuck Grassley

Kent Conrad

Mark Warner

Paul Sarbanes

Pete V. Domenici

Steve Symms

Terry Sanford

Nancy Landon Kasseh

Strom Thurmond
Chie Hecht

Almy Dixon

Ed Stevens

Jake Lamm

Jim Tanner
A. M. Higgins

Howell Heflin

Frank W. Bynum

Bill Simpson

Pat Bond

Brie Brantley

George Murphy

Lloyd Bentsen

Tommy

Danny Evans

Jack Danforth

Rob Kiew

Paul DeLoach