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House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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May 25, 1985

His Excellency Mikhail Gorbachev
General Secretary of the Communist Party
The Kremlin
Moscow, USSR

Dear President Gorbachev:

We are writing you on behalf of Victor Yelistratov and his family, Soviet citizens who have been denied permission to emigrate to Israel.

Mr. Yelistratov applied for an emigration visa for himself, his wife and his son in July of 1972. This application was denied on the grounds of "secret classification of former job." We find this logic difficult to accept.

While Mr. Yelistratov was employed as an aeronautical engineer, any information to which he may have been exposed has been readily available to Western intelligence sources for many years.

Mr. Yelistratov was fired from his position as a translator of foreign publications as soon as he applied for an exit visa. Since that time, this skilled individual has been relegated to employment in the most menial of occupations.

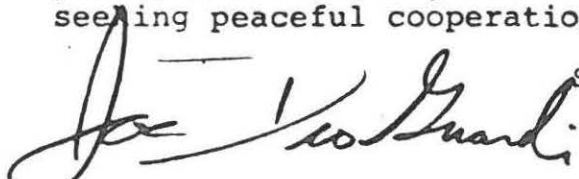
The Yelistratov's have endured all forms of harassment: they have been imprisoned, beaten and tortured, they have lost their phone and mail service, and have been forcibly driven out of Moscow.

The American people desire peaceful relations between our nation and yours; but it becomes difficult for most Americans to accept the good faith of the Soviet Union when your government takes actions such as those taken against the members of the Yelistratov family.

As you know, in signing the Helsinki Accords, your government has agreed to allow its citizens to emigrate freely. Please, to demonstrate good will and to fuel the momentum that we now enjoy in improving relations, let the Yelistratov family emigrate.

Thank you very much for your consideration. We hope that you will make this gesture as a sign of good faith to Americans seeking peaceful cooperation between our nations.

Sincerely,




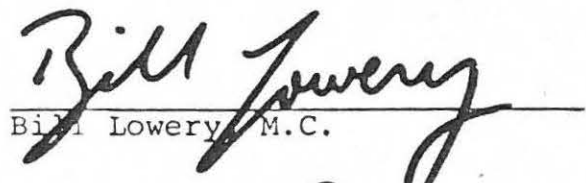
Joseph J. DiGuardi, M.C.



Norman F. Lent, M.C.


Jim Saxton, M.C.


John E. Porter, M.C.

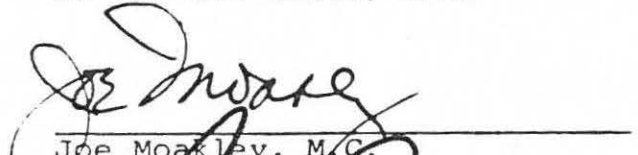

Bill Lowery, M.C.


Charles E. Schumer, M.C.


Dean A. Gallo, M.C.


Ken Kramer, M.C.

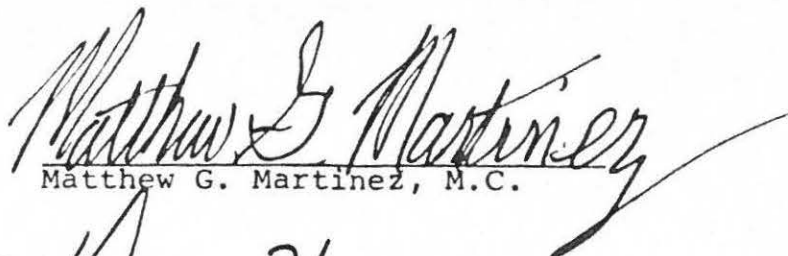

S. William Green, M.C.

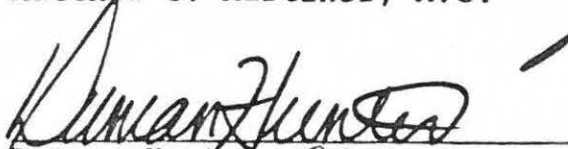

Joe Moakley, M.C.

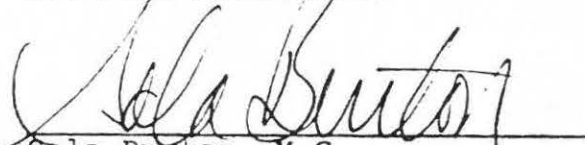

Bill Archer, M.C.


Albert E. Bustamante, M.C.

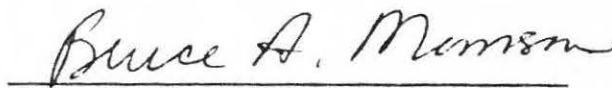

Frederick C. Boucher, M.C.

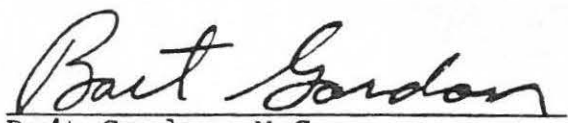

Matthew G. Martinez, M.C.

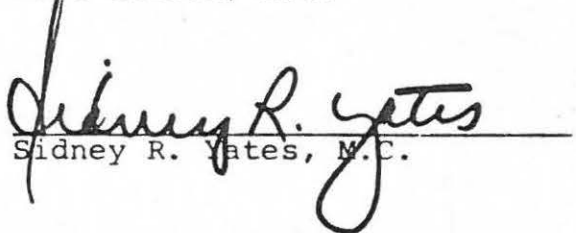

Duncan Hunter, M.C.

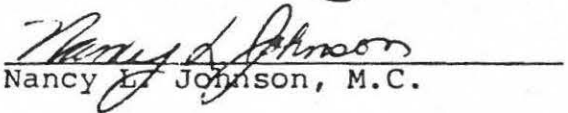

Sala Burton, M.C.



Mike Synar, M.C.


Bruce A. Morrison, M.C.


Bart Gordon, M.C.


Sidney R. Yates, M.C.


Nancy L. Johnson, M.C.


Michael D. Barnes, M.C.


Tom DeLay, M.C.


Gary Ackerman, M.C.