

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

October 19, 1979

Secretary General Leonid Brezhnev
The Kremlin
Moscow, USSR

Dear Secretary General:

This letter is to convey to you our deep concern for the three men of the so-called Leningrad Group who still remain in prison, and to ask for the early release of Aleksei Murzhenko, Yuri Federov and Iosif Mendelevich, on the grounds of justice as well as humanitarian concern.

One of the original twelve defendants, Sylva Zalmanson, was released in 1974. Israel Zalmanson was released upon completion of his term in 1978. In April 1979, Anatoly Altman, Hillel Butman, Lieb Khnokh, Wolf Zalmanson, and Boris Penson were freed. Mark Dymshitz and Eduard Kuznetsov were part of the prisoner exchange which took place last May.

Compelling arguments exist for the release of the three remaining prisoners. The health of these men is deteriorating rapidly. Because of his religious beliefs Mendelevich, an Orthodox Jew, must subsist on a diet of less than 1200 calories a day. Federov has already served nine years of the severe sentence which he received.

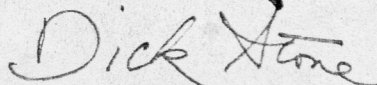
In appealing for your clemency towards these three men, we urge you to heed the appeal voiced by Murzhenko at the Leningrad Trials: " I ask the Court to sentence me to a term which would leave me some hope for happiness, for my future and that of my family. "

Your serious consideration of this request will be greatly appreciated.

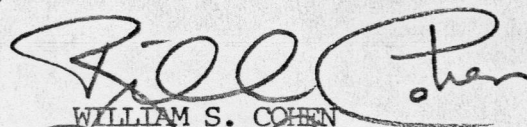
Sincerely yours,



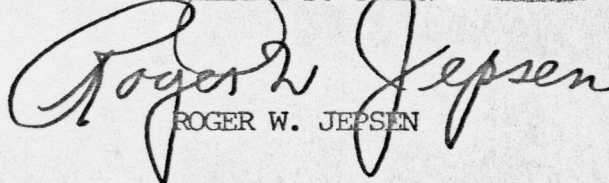
BOB DOLE



RICHARD STONE



WILLIAM S. COHEN



ROGER W. JEPSSEN

Carl Levin
CARL LEVIN

Richard Lugar
RICHARD G. LUGAR

Lloyd Bentsen
LLOYD BENTSEN

Charles H. Percy
CHARLES H. PERCY

Paul E. Tsongas
PAUL E. TSONGAS

John C. Danforth
JOHN C. DANFORTH

S. I. Hayakawa
S. I. HAYAKAWA

Abe Ribicoff
ABRAHAM RIBICOFF

Thad Cochran
THAD COCHRAN

John Heinz
JOHN HEINZ

Rudy Boschwitz
RUDY BOSCHWITZ

Henry M. Jackson
HENRY JACKSON

Jacob Javits
JACOB JAVITS

Birch Bayh
BIRCH BAYH

John Melcher
JOHN MELCHER

Jim McClure
JAMES A. MCCLURE

Larry Pressler
LARRY PRESSLER

Strom Thurmond
STROM THURMOND

Bob Packwood

BOB PACKWOOD

William Proxmire

WILLIAM PROXMIRE

Edward Zorinsky

EDWARD ZORINSKY

Alan Cranston

ALAN CRANSTON

Max Baucus

MAX BAUCUS

Barry Goldwater

BARRY GOLDWATER

John Tower

JOHN TOWER

Daniel Patrick Moynihan

DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN

Mark O. Hatfield

MARK O. HATFIELD

Gordon J. Humphrey

GORDON J. HUMPHREY