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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

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September 24, 1982

Honorable George Schultz
Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Mr. Secretary:

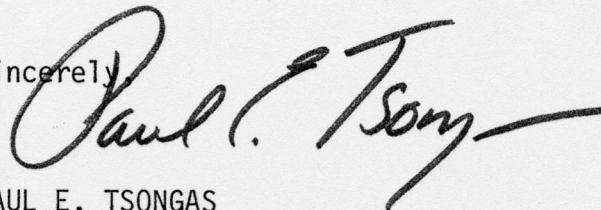
I am writing to you concerning the worsening plight of Soviet Jews who have expressed a desire to emigrate from the U.S.S.R. As you know, throughout my years in public office I have been very active on this important humanitarian issue. I believe it is now time for the Reagan Administration to step forward and assume a leading role in our efforts to help these needy people. Your upcoming meeting with Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko could provide an excellent opportunity to carry out the commitments which you made on behalf of Soviet Jewry during your confirmation hearings before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The problems of the Soviet Jews are myriad. Most prominent of these is the emigration rate itself; the number of Jews allowed to emigrate has rapidly dropped from several thousands per month in the late 1970's to less than two hundred per month currently. The Jews who apply for their visa papers are subject to discrimination and persecution in their business affairs and personal lives. Offenses vary from the stripping of scientific degrees to random assaults and arrests. Also, many individuals have been tormented in their attempts to exercise their limited religious freedoms. Hebrew and Jewish culture classes have been disrupted and curtailed.

It is now time to confront the Soviets with this pitiful record. The plight of Soviet Jews should be made a criteria for better relations between our two governments. I urge you to bring up this important issue during your talks with Foreign Minister Gromyko.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



PAUL E. TSONGAS
United States Senator

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