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Collection Name MATLOCK, JACK: FILES

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JET 5/3/2005

File Folder DIVIDED SPOUSES 6/7

FOIA

F06-114/7

Box Number 24

YARHI-MILO

2413

ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
9547	CABLE	DEMARCHE ON SEPARATED SPOUSES: GRAHAM/FINKEL [2 - 3]	2	12/22/1986	B1
		R 7/7/2008 NLRRF06-114/7			

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]

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WASHFAX RECEIPT
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

FILE
DOW. SPOUSES

C

86 DEC 22 P 6: 12

DECLASSIFIED
Department of State Guidelines, July 21, 1997
By GS NARA; Date 7/14/02

B

S/S #

MESSAGE NO. 01332 CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM
FROM: RHMUELLER S/S X78448 7224
(Officer name) (Office symbol) (Extension) (Room number)
MESSAGE DESCRIPTION MOSCOW: DEMARCHE ON SEPARATED SPOUSES: GRAHAM/FINKEL

TO: (per cy)	DELIVER TO:	Extension	Room No.
NSC	ROBERT PEARSON		
NSC	EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT		
NSC	Paula Dobriansky		
	McDaniel		
	Matlock		

FOR: CLEARANCE ☒ INFORMATION ☐ PER REQUEST ☐ COMMENT ☐

REMARKS: PLEASE CLEAR BY: 12/22

CLEAR

PD 12/22/86

S/S Officer:

RHMUELLER

DS

CROSSHATCH

RETURN TIME-STAMPED COVERSHEET TO S/S.

DECLASSIFIED

12/22

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NLRR FOI 714/7 #9547
BY CN NARADATE 7/7/08

EUR/SOV/SOBI:KCLANG:KCL
12/22/86 647-8673 WANG 47078
EUR:RLRIDGWAY

EUR/SOV:MRPARRIS
HA/MR:DWAKE

EUR/SOV/SOBI:LDSELL
NSC:
S/S:

EUR/SOV ONLY

IMMEDIATE MOSCOW

EXDIS

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: CVIS PHUM UR {FINKEL, MATVEY}

SUBJECT: DEMARCHE ON SEPARATED SPOUSES: GRAHAM/FINKEL

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. AMBASSADOR HARTMAN SHOULD, AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY, MAKE A DEMARCHE ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT REAGAN CONCERNING THE SEPARATED SPOUSES SUSAN GRAHAM AND MATVEY FINKEL. THE DEMARCHE SHOULD BE DELIVERED AT THE HIGHEST AVAILABLE LEVEL OF THE MFA, FOR THE PERSONAL ATTENTION OF GENERAL SECRETARY GORBACHEV. THE PRESIDENT ASKS THE GENERAL SECRETARY TO PERMIT THE IMMEDIATE EMIGRATION OF MOSCOW RESIDENT MATVEY FINKEL ON URGENT HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS, SO THAT HE MAY JOIN HIS WIFE IN THE UNITED STATES FOR THE BIRTH OF THEIR FIRST CHILD.

3. THE PRESIDENT SPOKE WITH SUSAN'S PARENTS IN SPOKANE, WASHINGTON, ON OCTOBER 31 AND TOLD THEM THAT HE WOULD DO EVERYTHING HE COULD TO HELP. HE IS WRITING TO THE GRAHAMS TO TELL THEM THAT HE HAS COMMUNICATED HIS CONCERNS TO THE GENERAL SECRETARY.

4. SUSAN GRAHAM AND MATVEY FINKEL MET IN 1977, WHEN

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RL
K
NSC
SS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1 2

SUSAN WAS A STUDENT IN THE SOVIET UNION. SUSAN VISITED HIM AGAIN IN 1978, AND THEY WERE MARRIED IN DECEMBER 1979. MATVEY HAS APPLIED NUMEROUS TIMES TO EMIGRATE. SOME OF THE REFUSALS HAVE CITED HIS MILITARY SERVICE, ALTHOUGH THIS ENDED IN 1973. A METALLURGICAL ENGINEER, HE HAS BEEN EMPLOYED SPOTTILY AND IN MENIAL JOBS SINCE HIS FIRST APPLICATION TO EMIGRATE IN 1978.

5. SUSAN HAS TAUGHT RUSSIAN AT THE COLLEGE LEVEL. SHE TOOK A JOB AS A NANNY TO AN AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT IN MOSCOW IN 1983 SO SHE COULD BE WITH HER HUSBAND. SHE HAS NOW RETURNED TO HER PARENT'S HOME TO AWAIT THE BIRTH OF THE COUPLE'S FIRST CHILD, WHICH IS DUE DECEMBER 27.

5. SUSAN HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY ACTIVE IN PUBLICIZING HER CASE. SHE AND MATVEY WERE DETAINED BY SOVIET POLICE ON OCTOBER 28 AFTER STANDING ON A MOSCOW STREET COLLECTING SIGNATURES ON A PETITION. SHE MET WITH SECRETARY SHULTZ IN VIENNA IN EARLY NOVEMBER, AS WELL AS WITH SOVIET OFFICIALS MOROZOV AND YEVSTAFYEV. SHE AND HER MOTHER, DESPITE BELOW-FREEZING TEMPERATURES, HAVE RECENTLY DEMONSTRATED ON THE STREETS OF SPOKANE. SHE AND HER PARENTS WILL CONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS UNTIL MATVEY IS ABLE TO JOIN HIS WIFE AND CHILD IN THE UNITED STATES.
VV

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Dec 22

NOTE FOR LORETTA BRAXTON

Loretta,

Please send to State for draft reply
for White House signature (per Paula).

R. Graham
27 Rockwood Blvd.
ne, WA 99203

Thanks and MERRY CHRISTMAS.

cember 1986

Mary W

Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Reagan:

On October 31, 1986 you met with my parents, Anna Mae and Robert Graham, in Spokane, Washington regarding the plight of my Soviet husband Matvey Finkel, who for the seven years of our marriage has been trying to join me in this country. I was in Moscow at the time of your meeting with my parents, but I have now returned home to await the birth of Matvey's and my first child, due in ten days. I take this opportunity to thank you most sincerely for taking the time to meet with my parents and for your commitment to help the Divided Spouses and my husband in particular.

When I returned to the United States from Moscow, I stopped over briefly in Washington, D.C. and met on November 10 with staffers from the National Security Council, department of Soviet affairs. After that meeting I was delighted to learn that you had, indeed, expressed a personal interest in trying to resolve our case before the birth of our child and intended to communicate directly with General Secretary Gorbachev in this regard. Since that time nearly six weeks have passed, and I have had no indication as to whether such a communication was made or is still to be made. I assume that nothing has been done, for I have not heard to the contrary. Furthermore, I believe that had such a communication actually been made six weeks ago, Matvey would probably be here with me now.

I realize that the past weeks have been an extremely busy time for all of you in Washington. I know that your hands are more than full with the affairs of our country and the world. But life goes on and babies cannot wait to be born. This is an extremely stressful time for me: preparing for the child's birth, trying to help my husband, being separated from him, preparing for the holidays, looking after my health. I am distressed to have to add to this list that I have spent many hours trying to encourage fulfillment of the commitment made by you. Perhaps I am foolish to pursue this, but frankly, your meeting with my parents gave us the greatest hope we have ever had and I cannot let it go so easily. I must know that I have done everything in my power to bring my husband and his child together. Mr. President, I hope you share this conviction with me. If I have learned one thing in my seven-year struggle with the Soviets, it is that it is better to have tried and failed than not to have tried at all.

God bless you, Mr. President, for your help and kind thoughts for us. May the holidays be filled with joy for you and your family.

Sincerely,

Lisa Graham

5
Susan R. Graham
E. 1527 Rockwood Blvd.
Spokane, WA 99203

17 December 1986

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Reagan:

On October 31, 1986 you met with my parents, Anna Mae and Robert Graham, in Spokane, Washington regarding the plight of my Soviet husband Matvey Finkel, who for the seven years of our marriage has been trying to join me in this country. I was in Moscow at the time of your meeting with my parents, but I have now returned home to await the birth of Matvey's and my first child, due in ten days. I take this opportunity to thank you most sincerely for taking the time to meet with my parents and for your commitment to help the Divided Spouses and my husband in particular.

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God bless you, Mr. President, for your help and kind thoughts for us. May the holidays be filled with joy for you and your family.

Sincerely,



Susan R. Graham

6

Susan R. Graham
E. 1527 Rockwood Blvd.
Spokane, WA 99203

10 December 1986

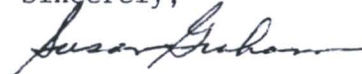
President Ronald Reagan
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am forwarding to you signatures collected from the residents of Spokane over a 1.5 hour period today, Human Rights Day, in downtown Spokane. The signatures here are a token representation of the support the Spokane community has shown recently in the struggle to reunite me and my Soviet husband of seven years, Matvey Finkel. The people of Spokane remember your visit with pride, and I hope that you will join us in the community effort to bring my husband home in time to see his baby born.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,



Susan R. Graham

cc: Donald Regan
Larry Speakes
Frank Carlucci
Paul Thompson
Paula Dobriansky

Graham takes to the streets in campaign to free husband

By Russell Carollo

Staff writer

The birth of her first child two weeks away, Susan Graham solicited signatures for a petition on a chilly Spokane street corner Wednesday, hoping to warm the hearts of U.S. and Soviet leaders and somehow get her husband out of the Soviet Union.

"Time is running short for us," Graham said, standing on the corner of Howard and Riverside. "We're going to have a baby in two weeks, and I'd like my husband to be here."

Graham married Matvey Finkel, a Soviet citizen, in 1979, and she's been trying to help him leave that country ever since.

She said there were several rea-

sons for picking Wednesday to gather signatures: Wednesday is Human Rights day, today is the couple's seventh anniversary, and the birth of their child is almost here.

She collected 250 signatures and plans to send the petition to President Reagan.

"I wanted to do something today because it's Human Rights Day, and ours is a human rights problem," she said. "President Reagan has always put a lot of emphasis on human rights."

Graham, wearing a fur hat her husband bought for her in Moscow, said she spoke to a U.S. State Department official Tuesday, but

Please see **GRAHAM: A4**



Staff photo by Kit King

Susan Graham talks with a passerby Wednesday as she solicits signatures for a petition seeking freedom for her husband.

GRAHAM /FROM A3

"there was really nothing to report."

Her husband, too, is doing what he can.

"He is trying to think of anything he can do to move this case," she said. "The things he can do (in the Soviet Union) are very limited."

Her husband told her this week that KGB agents have started to watch his apartment again, Graham said.

Twice in October, she said, she solicited signatures on Moscow streets. The second time she was detained for more than two hours by police.

Her parents have tried to help her too, meeting with Reagan when he was in Spokane in October.

Graham said she will not give up hope her husband will be allowed to leave the Soviet Union, despite the lack of response from U.S. officials.

"I'm still hopeful," she said. "These things are so unpredictable. Something can happen overnight. My optimism will last forever."

DECEMBER 10, 1986

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

DEAR PRESIDENT REAGAN,

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED RESIDENTS OF SPOKANE, WA., WOULD LIKE TO REMIND YOU OF THE COMMITMENT YOU MADE WHEN YOU WERE IN OUR CITY 6 WEEKS AGO TO BRING ABOUT THE REUNIFICATION OF THE FAMILY OF SUSAN GRAHAM, A SPOKANE NATIVE, AND MATVEY FINKEL, A CITIZEN OF THE U.S.S.R. SUSAN AND MATVEY EXPECT THEIR FIRST CHILD IN TWO WEEKS TIME AND WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THEM TOGETHER FOR THIS IMPORTANT EVENT. PLEASE CONTACT GENERAL SECRETARY GORBACHEV AND ASK HIM TO REUNITE THIS FAMILY IN THE UNITED STATES IMMEDIATELY.

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP.

Chris Denny	Michael E. Bortolotto
Shirley Magness	Paula D. Hall
Dolores Waterhouse	Harlene F. Nelson
Del Waterhouse	Michael D. Hall
Allie Waterhouse	Harlene F. Nelson
Lori Waterhouse	Patricia H. Harman
Linda Benge	Julie E. Stecher
Gordon Benge	Chris Denny
Marie Griffith	Joseph E. Bortolotto
Joyce Sylvester	Chris Denny
Tom Sylvester	Maureen Kevin
Lois Fairclough	Arlene Denny
Joyce Chapman	J. G. Lindsay
Lorraine Udas	TONY L. PLASTINO
Elna Stenersen	Kit C. King
Jennie Merg	Susan Deller
Jim Campbell	Marietta B. Best
Dave Larkin	Sydney Page
Lae Adolphson	Steven R. Larson
Hearnie Worth	Jeffrey Lamm
Wayne Smith	Thomas R. Hansen
Norman W. Berglund	B. Peter Barnard
Wim Slack	John R. Cox
F. W. Hill	Raymond W. Brown
Stephen H. Branson	Richard W. Barclay

	Karen Kopnick
	Marty Kopnick
	Patricia C. Benham
Ellen Bell	Dandy Oersley
Delley Brower	Mari Jo Olson
Marcelle Spitz Berch	Paul C. Segrade
Fred Deben	Edward J. Segrade
Kate Wright	Edith Segrade
Tom Walling	Edith Segrade
Norrie Reynolds	Edward J. Segrade
Floyd Sackerson	Edith Segrade
Joe Blum	Edith Segrade
Bernie Hill	David M. Black
Al Gray	Ethel M. Chapman
Webb Schuring	Edith Segrade
Don Hart	Carl Segrade
Walter Segrade	Arthur H. Karsa
Philip S. Jones	Carl Segrade
Bruce S. Jones	John S. Jones
Alicia Smith	Myron Guy Sessions
Lucille E. Berry	Edith Segrade
Betty Patton	Edith Segrade
Linda Davis	Edith Segrade
John S.	Edith Segrade
Edith M. Hanna	Edith Segrade
Jacqueline L. Soffer	Edith Segrade
Edith Segrade	Edith Segrade
Mauree Vulcano	Edith Segrade
John Fisher	Edith Segrade
James M. Patterson	Edith Segrade
Phillip Patterson	Edith Segrade
Eileen Davidson	Edith Segrade
Richard Davis	Edith Segrade
Dona Jane McKay	Edith Segrade

NAME

Louise M. Kassen	
Carlie S. Clark	Brenda Lee Crosby
Charles G. Gushko	Himi J. Hye
Karelia Dykes	Kim Street
Kim Gorman	Art Kell
Rudi Schaff	Alicia Dorpat
Jean Frank	Sharon E. Dorpat
Leo Hoffman	Edward E. Tatt
Russell Owens	Sharon Hilde
Wm. W. W. W.	
Hester O. Abraham	
Darlene F. Martin	
Virginia Jones	
Suzanne L. Brown	
Caroline E. Wilson	
Mary McCarthy	
Albino Kell	
Pauline Ray	
George W. Pettit	
Dorothy Couch	
Karen B. B. B.	
Donald E. Williams	
Jenna L. L. L.	
Anna J. Higgins	
Emily Balzer	
Jackie R. R. R.	
Ruth Laurie	
Angela Kase	
Walter O. O. O.	
Kathleen O. O. O.	
Mark S. S. S.	
Paula M. M. M.	
Sharon Desmond	
Judy Mire	

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Digital Collections

This is not a presidential record. This marker is used as an administrative marker by the Ronald W. Reagan Presidential Library Staff. This marker identifies that there was an object in this folder that could not be scanned due to its size.

Dobriansky¹²
8154
File Div. Spouses

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 22, 1986

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Graham:

I was pleased to have had the opportunity to meet with you during my recent visit to Spokane. I was deeply moved by your daughter's plight and have communicated my concerns to General Secretary Gorbachev. Specifically, I have urged him to permit Susan's husband, Matvey Finkel, to emigrate to the United States in December of this year.

God bless you.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan

Mr. & Mrs. Robert H. Graham
East 1527 Rockwood Boulevard
Spokane, Washington 99203

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

December 19, 1986

SIGNED

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ALTON G. KEEL

FROM: PAULA DOBRIANSKY *PD*

SUBJECT: Presidential Letter to Mr. & Mrs. Robert Graham

Attached at Tab I is a memorandum for the President forwarding a letter to Mr. & Mrs. Graham (Tab A), whom he met in Spokane, Washington, on October 31. During this visit, the Grahams appealed to the President to seek the resolution of their daughter's case. Susan Graham has been married to Matvey Finkel, a Soviet national, for seven years. She is expecting a child in December and hopes her husband will be granted an exit visit to leave the Soviet Union before the end of this year.

Per your request, Embassy Moscow has been authorized to make an oral demarche on behalf of Matvey Finkel.

The text of the letter has been cleared by Speechwriters.

Jm
Jack Matlock and State concur.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memorandum for the President at Tab I.

Approve

PD

Disapprove

Attachments

Tab I	Memo for President
Tab A	Letter to M/M Graham
Tab B	Incoming Correspondence


THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

8154 add-on

December 22, 1986

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: ALTON G. KEEL 
SUBJECT: Letter to Mr. & Mrs. Graham

Issue

Letter Mr. & Mrs. Robert Graham.

Facts

You met with Mr. & Mrs. Graham in Spokane, Washington, on October 31. During this meeting, the Grahams appealed to you to seek the resolution of their daughter's case. Susan Graham has been married to Matvey Finkel, a Soviet national, for seven years. She is expecting a child in December and hopes her husband will be granted an exit visa to leave the Soviet Union before the end of this year.

Discussion

We have instructed Embassy Moscow to make an oral demarche on behalf of Matvey Finkel.

Recommendation

<u>OK</u>	<u>No</u>
	_____

That you sign the letter to Mr. & Mrs. Graham at Tab A.

Attachments

Tab A Letter to Grahams
Tab B Incoming Correspondence

Prepared by:
Paula Dobriansky

cc: Vice President

- 750 13
- Robert and Anna Mae Graham are residents of Spokane, Washington. Their daughter, Susan, is married to Matvey Finkel -- a Soviet citizen.
 - She is seven months pregnant and will return to the U. S. to have the baby.
 - The Soviets have confiscated his passport.

- Anna Mae, I am very sorry to hear of the plight of your daughter and son-in-law.
- We strongly disagree with the Soviet's policy on immigration.
- I have made that very clear to General Secretary Gorbachev -- most recently during my conversation with him in Iceland.
- We will continue to push the Soviets to liberalize their immigration policy.

16

Robert H. Graham

E. 1527 Rockwood Blvd., Spokane, WA 99203
(509)535-8348 or (509)292-2680

October 30, 1986
Spokane, WA

Dear President Reagan:

I have requested a brief meeting with you to ask for your help for my daughter, Susan, and her husband, Matvey Finkel. Matvey is a Soviet citizen living in Moscow. He and Susan have been married for seven years and his applications for emigration have consistently been denied, a direct violation by the Soviets of the Helsinki Accords.

Susan is now seven months pregnant with their first child and will be leaving the Soviet Union shortly to come home to Spokane for the birth of the baby. They have asked for help from many sources including you, the State Department, Rep. Thomas Foley, Sen. Slade Gorton and the late Sen. Henry Jackson. I wrote to Mrs. Reagan shortly before your meeting with Gen. Secretary Gorbachev in Iceland hoping she might be able to help.

Last month while Susan was in Washington, D.C. for a meeting of the Divided Spouses Coalition with Deputy Secretary Whitehead, Matvey was arrested and interrogated for many hours within a four-day period. Tuesday both Susan and Matvey were detained by the KGB and interrogated for three hours. At that time Matvey was threatened with internal exile. We are concerned for his safety once Susan leaves the Soviet Union.

The situation in Moscow is desperate. Susan was denied medical care at the U. S. Embassy clinic in Moscow because she is "only a Nanny" for a correspondent. This seems unbelievable as she is well-acquainted at the Embassy and has gone to the clinic many times in the past three years for medical assistance. She has seen a doctor only three times during her pregnancy, twice in Sweden and last month in Washington, D.C.

I feel that if we are to continue to have cultural exchanges between the Soviet Union and our own country, we will have Soviet-American marriages. To have 20 other couples currently in the same dilemma as our daughter is unconscionable.

In the past 24 hour period I have collected several hundred signatures from concerned citizens in Spokane who support the resolution of our dilemma.

Mr. President, I urge you to contact Secretary Gorbachev today and persuade him to allow Matvey to leave the Soviet Union with his wife, Susan.

Thank you for your time and your help. I await your response.

Sincerely,

Anna Mae Graham
Anna Mae Graham

- Robert and Anna Mae Graham are residents of Spokane, Washington. Their daughter, Susan, is married to Matvey Finkel -- a Soviet citizen.
- She is seven months pregnant and will return to the U. S. to have the baby.
- The Soviets have confiscated his passport.

- Anna Mae, I am very sorry to hear of the plight of your daughter and son-in-law.
- We strongly disagree with the Soviet's policy on immigration.
- I have made that very clear to General Secretary Gorbachev -- most recently during my conversation with him in Iceland.
- We will continue to push the Soviets to liberalize their immigration policy.

Robert H. Graham

E. 1527 Rockwood Blvd., Spokane, WA 99203
(509)535-8348 or (509)292-2680

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Spokane, WA

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Mr. President, I urge you to contact Secretary Gorbachev today and persuade him to allow Matvey to leave the Soviet Union with his wife, Susan.

Thank you for your time and your help. I await your response.

Sincerely,


Anna Mae Graham

SLADE GORTON
WASHINGTON

COMMITTEES:
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION
BANKING, HOUSING, AND
URBAN AFFAIRS
BUDGET
SMALL BUSINESS
INDIAN AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

313 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING 19
(202) 224-2621

2988 JACKSON FEDERAL BUILDING
915 SECOND AVENUE
SEATTLE, WA 98174
(206) 442-5545

770 U.S. COURT HOUSE
W. 920 RIVERSIDE AVENUE
SPOKANE, WA 99201
(509) 456-6816

FIRST FEDERAL PLAZA, SUITE 445
1220 MAIN STREET
VANCOUVER, WA 98660
(206) 696-7838

October 14, 1986

Ms. Susan Graham
c/o Mr. R. H. Graham
East 1527 Rockwood Boulevard
Spokane, Washington 99203

Dear Susan:

I have sent copies of the attached letters to President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev. Senator Evans joined me on these letters. I am hopeful that the negotiations about to begin will prove helpful in resolving your situation.

If I can be of further assistance, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



SLADE GORTON
United States Senator

SG:rds

Enclosures

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

October 8, 1986

General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev
Embassy of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
1125 16th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Secretary Gorbachev:

We are writing on the eve of your meetings with President Reagan to draw to your attention a compelling situation involving a Soviet citizen who is married to one of our constituents, an American woman from Spokane, Washington. We ask you to discuss this couple's situation with President Reagan and to make every effort to resolve their difficulties as quickly as possible.

Susan Graham, the American citizen, has been married for seven years to Matvey Finkel, a citizen of the Soviet Union. The couple met, fell in love, and were married in your country. However, they were not allowed to live together until 1983, four years after their marriage. Susan gave up teaching at an American university to work as a nanny in Moscow in order to be with her husband. Matvey has been denied permission to emigrate to the United States ten times. Most recently, his internal passport was confiscated by the police.

Susan is now expecting their first child in December, and will be returning to the United States for the birth. It is their heartfelt wish that Matvey be allowed to join his wife for this, the most important event in their lives. We believe that this couple has been made to suffer unduly, and we ask you to respond to their plea to be allowed to live together in the country of their choice. This couple desperately needs the kind of help which can only come from cooperation between you and President Reagan.

It is our hope that arrangements can be made within the context of your meetings with President Reagan which will permanently reunite this family in the United States, and we are grateful for any assistance which you can provide to make this happen.

Sincerely, .



SLADE GORTON
United States Senator



DANIEL J. EVANS
United States Senator

21

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

October 8, 1986

The Honorable Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing on the eve of your meetings with Secretary Gorbachev to draw to your attention a compelling situation involving one of our constituents who is married to a Soviet citizen. We ask you to discuss this matter with Secretary Gorbachev, and to work with him to find a humane and speedy solution.

Susan Graham, a resident of Spokane, Washington, has been married to Matvey Finkel, a Soviet citizen, for seven years. Susan and Matvey have endured years of separation and frustration in their attempt to live together in the United States. After their marriage in 1979, they were denied the right to live as husband and wife until 1983, when the Soviets allowed Susan to stay in Moscow. Matvey has been denied the right to emigrate to this country more than ten times. The Soviet authorities have never offered a reasonable justification for refusing his application. Matvey and Susan are not permitted a home of their own, cannot pursue their careers, and cannot live in the country of their choice. Most recently, Matvey was detained by the KGB, and his internal passport was confiscated.

Susan is now expecting their first child in December, and will be returning to the United States for the birth. It is their heartfelt desire that Matvey be allowed to join his wife as soon as possible so that they might be together for this most important event in their lives. We ask you to press upon Secretary Gorbachev the urgency of this situation and the need for him to act promptly to grant Matvey permission to leave the Soviet Union. This couple desperately needs the kind of help which can only come from cooperation between you and Secretary Gorbachev.

It is our hope that arrangements can be made within the context of your meetings with Secretary Gorbachev which will permanently reunite this family in the United States, and we are grateful for any assistance which you can provide to make this happen.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Slade Gorton", written over a horizontal line.

SLADE GORTON
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel J. Evans", written over a horizontal line.

DANIEL J. EVANS
United States Senator

23
Robert H. Graham

E. 1527 Rockwood Blvd., Spokane, WA 99203
(509)535-8348 or (509)292-2680

October 6, 1986

Mrs. Nancy Reagan
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Reagan:

I am writing this letter to appeal to you on behalf of my daughter, Susan, who has been married for almost 7 years to a Soviet citizen, Matvey Finkel. Matvey has applied approximately 15 times to emigrate to the United States to live here with Susan, and each time he has been denied permission by the Soviet government. I have enclosed a brief summary of their situation to date.

In December, Susan and Matvey are expecting their first child. Susan has been living in the Soviet Union for three years, but at the end of this month will return to Spokane to have her baby.

This couple and other couples in similar circumstances have tried many ways of resolving their dilemma. Last November when President Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev met, 8 cases such as theirs were resolved. I pray that perhaps you and Mrs. Gorbachev would discuss the Divided Spouses issue with your husbands, that it might be resolved once and for all. If we are to continue to have cultural exchanges between our two countries, we will continue to have Soviet-American marriages.

I want my daughter and son-in-law to be together for the birth of their baby. I want my grandchild to know his father from the beginning of his life, and not as a 'voice on the telephone or a picture on the mantle'. That doesn't seem like a lot to ask. Please help me fulfill this wish.

Sincerely,

Anna Mae Graham

Anna Mae Graham

327-4484

Matvey S. Finkel
ul. Snezhnaya 6-2
Moscow, USSR
tel: 180 7550

Susan R. Graham
E. 1527 Rockwood Blvd.
Spokane, WA 99203
tel: 509 535 8348


Married on 11 December 1979 in Moscow.

We met in 1977 when Susan was studying in Leningrad on an official exchange program. Two years later we were married in Moscow. Matvey first applied to go to the United States on 22 December 1979. Six months later he was informed that his application had been denied. Over the past six years he has been refused permission more than ten times. He has never officially been given a reason, but Susan was told in 1982 his denials were based on one year of compulsory military duty which he served 1972-73, fourteen years ago. This, of course, directly contradicts what Mr. Gorbachev said in his interview with French journalists; he said that cases refused on the basis of state security are resolved in 5-10 years. Matvey was most recently denied permission to emigrate on 16 January 1986.

The first four years of our marriage we lived apart because Soviet authorities persistently denied Susan permission to go to Moscow so that we might live together as a family. Because of the extreme hardship of living apart we persisted in our efforts to be together and in 1983, after the intervention of Congressman Foley and the late Senator Jackson, Susan was allowed to go to Moscow to work as a nanny for an American correspondent. Being together has somewhat eased the anguish of our situation, and yet it is still very difficult because we are not permitted a home of our own, we cannot start a family, we cannot pursue our careers, we cannot live in the country of our own choice.

We ask that you not forget about us and the other divided spouses who share our plight. Please do everything in your power to bring the resolution of these cases.

Sincerely,


Susan R. Graham Matvey S. Finkel

Update: Susan is now pregnant; our child is due in December 1986. Susan will return to the United States in the fall to await our child's birth.

7 July 1986

25
we believe President Reagan should
see Anna May Graham concerning
her Susan Graham. Mrs Graham
would like to ask President Reagan's
help in getting permission for her
husband, Matvey Ginkel to leave
Russia.

Katherine J. Holman Lae Asolpson

Anna B. Kipper

Delora D. Zinn

Kodie Moran

Brenda Stone

Cecilia Fitts

Jeanne Kunkle

Glenn Welberry

Gail Candace

Barbara Kiserman

Beverly Cook Kirk

Janet Williams

Janet Williams

Claudia Sobczuk

Gayle Jordan

Leslie Hitt

Shirley Hoen

Claudia Miller

Linda Peterson

Dorothy M. Olsen

L. L. Tins

C. Thelmer

J. Worth

W. W. Wad

Shirley Schulte

Dorothy Ralston GOP

Cindy Schukay GOP

Arthur Owens

David Hughes

Dan Bergman

James M. Bergman

Barbara L. Davis

Dorothy Ackerman GOP

Kim Brockley

Julius A. Kates GOP

Linda George

Dorothy Johnson

Michele F. Johnson

Gary O'Leary

Shirley Hummel

Dorothy M. Datter

John Martin

Bela Hendry

Laurie Henderson

Laurie Henderson

Laurie Henderson

Bridley Martin

Robert E. Martin

Dennis A. Moll

NAME

Petition for Anna Mae to have a meeting
with President Reagan.

<u>Irving Shumway</u>	E 1015 Boone, Spokane WA 99201
<u>Sandra R. Gobek</u>	E 3403 Jackson Spok 99201
<u>Timothy Gage Smith</u>	71725 - 100th St. Spok 99203
<u>Dinda D. Hayward</u>	1618 E Dalton 99209
<u>Jane D. Lake</u>	E 3403 Jackson 99207
<u>Rowell Koppal</u>	1412 W GRACE Spok WA 99201
<u>Alberta Kestrand</u>	W. 2911 Ft. Wright Dr. Spokane, Wa.
<u>Sister Virginia M. Kopp</u>	" " " " " "
<u>Sister Frances L. Kesterman</u>	W 2911 Ft. Wright Dr. Spokane, Wa
<u>Sister Margaret McNamee</u>	W. 2911 Ft. Wright Dr. Spokane, Wa.
<u>Sister Lora Kesterman</u>	W 2911 Ft. Wright Dr. Spokane, Wa.
<u>Margaret M. Kesterman</u>	W 2911 Ft. Wright Dr. Spokane, Wa.
<u>Lolene Kesterman</u>	1015 E Boone Ave. Spokane, Wa 99202
<u>Leatha F. Dard</u>	Fort Wright Drive W. Infirmary
<u>Margaret L. Dargus</u>	W 2911 Ft. Wright Dr.
<u>Mary Anne Selmecki</u>	W. 2911 Ft. Wright Dr. Spokane 99201
<u>L. Dard</u>	W 2911 Ft. Wright Dr. Spokane 99201
<u>Sister Thomas Mary Smith</u>	W 2911 Fort Wright Dr. Spokane 99204
<u>Mary Jane Grubbs</u>	" " " " " "
<u>Hayel Pritchard</u>	W 2911 Fort Wright Drive
<u>Eleanor Milnor</u>	W 2911 Fort Wright Drive
<u>Kathleen M. Gannon</u>	W-2911 Fort Wright Dr
<u>Margaret M. Kuter</u>	W. 2911 Fort Wright Dr.
<u>Dorlene Emerson</u>	E 6517 7th
<u>Michael Stevenson</u>	E 911 N. Main Ave. Spokane Wash
<u>Marion M. Binsfield</u>	711213 Astor Ct. Spokane.
<u>Sarah S. Donnelly</u>	W 2911 Ft. Wright Dr.
<u>Sandra Ann Kesterman</u>	" " " " " "
<u>Patricia E. Leary</u>	W. 2911 Ft. Wright Dr. Spokane 99201
<u>Louise D. Buck</u>	" " " " " "
<u>Dora Kesterman</u>	W 2911 Ft. Wright Dr. Spokane 99201
<u>Rosemary Maher</u>	W 2911 - Ft. Wright Dr. Spokane Wash
<u>Rosemary Albi</u>	W 2911 Ft. Wright Dr. Spokane Wash
<u>James O'Reary</u>	W 2911 Ft. Wright Dr. Spokane Wash
<u>Margaret Norris</u>	W 2911 Ft. Wright Drive Spokane
<u>Donna Kesterman</u>	E 1015 Boone
<u>Kate</u>	1015 E Boone Spokane
<u>Kathleen Rexfield</u>	E 1015 Boone Spokane 99201

NAME

Petition for Anna Mae to have a meeting
with President Reagan.

Ertha Denver and	Fort Wright 99204
Ann Kintchen	2611XX 125 Edwards, WA 99008
Al McCone	
Bernice Longhugh	N 1112 Columbus Sp 99202
Don J. Lee	N 26110 Yale Rd Sp 99003
Bill Peters	71 26710 Yale Rd. Clatskanie 97002
Ed Peters	2313 E 15th Ave.
Nancy Crider	2423 E 7th
Marna Marie Henderson	7376 N. Hawthorn Green Blvd. 99004
William G. Lee	10 2132 Broadway, Spokane, WA 99201
William C. Lee	W 2132 Broadway, Spokane WA 99201
Lowell E. Thore	2218 Martin L King Way Bixley CA 99204
Thore E. Thore	6111 Howard Ave
Virginia Sullivan	E 1015 Boone
Margaret Malley	E 1015 Boone
E. Thore	E 1015 Boone 99202
Thore E. Thore	21521 Princeton Place 99205
Thore E. Thore	E 1015 Boone, Spokane 99202
Walter E. Thore	1713 W. Spalding 99205
Thore E. Thore	E 1015 Boone, Spokane 99202
Sarah Crowder	E 1015 Boone Ave Spokane 99202
Frances Weiskopf	E 1015 Boone Ave Spokane
Frances Weiskopf	E 1015 Boone - Spokane - 99202
Lucille Foster	E 1015 Boone Spokane 99202
Beatrice Storms	E 1015 Boone Spokane 99202
Mary E. Storms	E 1015 Boone Spokane 99202
Sophie Ludowicz	E 1015 Boone Spokane 99202
Editha Paffin B. Mary	E 1015 Boone " "
Agnes Krieg	E 1015 Boone " "
Helene Masterson	1015 E Boone Spokane 99202
Jane Sandgrass	E 1015 Boone Spokane 99202
Mary Kay Lindner	1015 E. Boone Spokane 99202
Elizabeth Mary Kend	E 15 NUTPA Spokane, W.A.
Clara M. Budig	E 1015 Boone, Spokane 99202
Margaret Mary Lane	PO Box 107, Monmouth, IL 63322

NAME Please let Anna Mae Graham
see President Reagan about her daughter
Susan Graham's husband Matvey Finkel

Chris Kennedy

Patricia A. Hall

Lucille M. Chambers

Sue Collins

Sharon Jones

Thelma D. H. 1.

Shirley Arnold

William J. Harris

Joan Spidle

Joseph M. Sals

Marjette Gilmore

Debbie Kautz

John Parasa

Marcell H. Hunt

Melody Inzer

Paula Jones

Ron L. Johnson

Pam Moffitt

Betty Rae Joseph

Ann Phillips

Deborah Dunn

Christa Schuttes
~~Lucas Schuttes~~
 Pauline Giamson
 Gladys Campbell
 Lynn Giffman
 Cyndi Kinney
~~Francine Hanga~~
 Lynn Wierich
 Allen Muller
 Carol Poe
~~Deane May~~
 Billie Mae
 John Cot
 Ellen Stoddard
 Elizabeth England
 Jimmy Page
 Karen McCarley
 Jenny Hermann
 Linda S. Sorel
 Maurien Backman
 Mary Jessop
 Esther Dickinson
 Jeanine Menden
 Lake Sutherland
 Jean Allrough
 Cheryl Menden
 Annette Menden
 Melba Menden
 Carol Menden
 Virginia Menden
 Marilee Smith
 Patricia & Arthur

Robert H. Graham

*Osborne
or Kuhn*

32

E. 1527 Rockwood Blvd., Spokane, WA 99203
(509)535-8348 or (509)292-2680

October 6, 1986

Mrs. Nancy Reagan
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Reagan:

I am writing this letter to appeal to you on behalf of my daughter, Susan, who has been married for almost 7 years to a Soviet citizen, Matvey Finkel. Matvey has applied approximately 15 times to emigrate to the United States to live here with Susan, and each time he has been denied permission by the Soviet government. I have enclosed a brief summary of their situation to date.

In December, Susan and Matvey are expecting their first child. Susan has been living in the Soviet Union for three years, but at the end of this month will return to Spokane to have her baby.

This couple and other couples in similar circumstances have tried many ways of resolving their dilemma. Last November when President Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev met, 8 cases such as theirs were resolved. I pray that perhaps you and Mrs. Gorbachev would discuss the Divided Spouses issue with your husbands, that it might be resolved once and for all. If we are to continue to have cultural exchanges between our two countries, we will continue to have Soviet-American marriages.

I want my daughter and son-in-law to be together for the birth of their baby. I want my grandchild to know his father from the beginning of his life, and not as a 'voice on the telephone or a picture on the mantle'. That doesn't seem like a lot to ask. Please help me fulfill this wish.

Sincerely,

Anna Mae Graham

Anna Mae Graham

SLADE GORTON
WASHINGTON

COMMITTEES:
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION
BANKING, HOUSING, AND
URBAN AFFAIRS
BUDGET
SMALL BUSINESS
INDIAN AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

33
202) 224-2821

2988 JACKSON FEDERAL BUILDING
915 SECOND AVENUE
SEATTLE, WA 98174
(206) 442-5545

770 U.S. COURT HOUSE
W. 920 RIVERSIDE AVENUE
SPOKANE, WA 99201
(509) 456-6816

FIRST FEDERAL PLAZA, SUITE 445
1220 MAIN STREET
VANCOUVER, WA 98660
(206) 696-7838

October 14, 1986

Ms. Susan Graham
c/o Mr. R. H. Graham
East 1527 Rockwood Boulevard
Spokane, Washington 99203

Dear Susan:

I have sent copies of the attached letters to President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev. Senator Evans joined me on these letters. I am hopeful that the negotiations about to begin will prove helpful in resolving your situation.

If I can be of further assistance, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



SLADE GORTON
United States Senator

SG:rds

Enclosures

34

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

October 8, 1986

General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev
Embassy of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
1125 16th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Secretary Gorbachev:

We are writing on the eve of your meetings with President Reagan to draw to your attention a compelling situation involving a Soviet citizen who is married to one of our constituents, an American woman from Spokane, Washington. We ask you to discuss this couple's situation with President Reagan and to make every effort to resolve their difficulties as quickly as possible.

Susan Graham, the American citizen, has been married for seven years to Matvey Finkel, a citizen of the Soviet Union. The couple met, fell in love, and were married in your country. However, they were not allowed to live together until 1983, four years after their marriage. Susan gave up teaching at an American university to work as a nanny in Moscow in order to be with her husband. Matvey has been denied permission to emigrate to the United States ten times. Most recently, his internal passport was confiscated by the police.

Susan is now expecting their first child in December, and will be returning to the United States for the birth. It is their heartfelt wish that Matvey be allowed to join his wife for this, the most important event in their lives. We believe that this couple has been made to suffer unduly, and we ask you to respond to their plea to be allowed to live together in the country of their choice. This couple desperately needs the kind of help which can only come from cooperation between you and President Reagan.

It is our hope that arrangements can be made within the context of your meetings with President Reagan which will permanently reunite this family in the United States, and we are grateful for any assistance which you can provide to make this happen.

Sincerely,



SLADE GORTON
United States Senator



DANIEL J. EVANS
United States Senator

35

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

October 8, 1986

The Honorable Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing on the eve of your meetings with Secretary Gorbachev to draw to your attention a compelling situation involving one of our constituents who is married to a Soviet citizen. We ask you to discuss this matter with Secretary Gorbachev, and to work with him to find a humane and speedy solution.

Susan Graham, a resident of Spokane, Washington, has been married to Matvey Finkel, a Soviet citizen, for seven years. Susan and Matvey have endured years of separation and frustration in their attempt to live together in the United States. After their marriage in 1979, they were denied the right to live as husband and wife until 1983, when the Soviets allowed Susan to stay in Moscow. Matvey has been denied the right to emigrate to this country more than ten times. The Soviet authorities have never offered a reasonable justification for refusing his application. Matvey and Susan are not permitted a home of their own, cannot pursue their careers, and cannot live in the country of their choice. Most recently, Matvey was detained by the KGB, and his internal passport was confiscated.

Susan is now expecting their first child in December, and will be returning to the United States for the birth. It is their heartfelt desire that Matvey be allowed to join his wife as soon as possible so that they might be together for this most important event in their lives. We ask you to press upon Secretary Gorbachev the urgency of this situation and the need for him to act promptly to grant Matvey permission to leave the Soviet Union. This couple desperately needs the kind of help which can only come from cooperation between you and Secretary Gorbachev.

It is our hope that arrangements can be made within the context of your meetings with Secretary Gorbachev which will permanently reunite this family in the United States, and we are grateful for any assistance which you can provide to make this happen.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Slade Gorton", written over a horizontal line.

SLADE GORTON
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Daniel J. Evans", written over a horizontal line.

DANIEL J. EVANS
United States Senator

Graham, Soviet husband detained briefly in Moscow

Staff and wire reports

A pregnant Spokane woman and her Soviet husband were detained for about 2½ hours Tuesday in Moscow after collecting 20 signatures on a petition asking that he be allowed to leave the Soviet Union.

Meanwhile, the woman's mother said she is going to do "everything I can" to make a personal appeal to President Reagan for help in her daughter's case when Reagan is in Spokane this week.

"All I want to do is have five minutes with the president," Anna Mae Graham said Tuesday. "If my kid can face the KGB, I can certainly do whatever I can to see the president on her behalf."

Reagan will be in Spokane on Thursday night and Friday campaigning for U.S. Sen. Slade Gorton.

Susan Graham, 31, said she and her husband, Matvey Finkel, went to a Moscow hotel frequented by Western tourists to try to get signatures on a petition

to Kremlin leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

Graham, seven months pregnant, and her husband collected signatures outside the hotel for several minutes before being stopped by hotel security agents, she said.

The security men took the couple inside the hotel to a basement police room where they were held, Graham told the Associated Press by telephone.

While they were being held, she said, Finkel was told he could be sent away from Moscow if he continued his protests.

Finkel, 37, and Graham were married in December 1979 and applied for permission for Finkel to emigrate. Time after time he has been refused.

Graham has devoted the past seven years to winning her husband's freedom. For three years she has lived with him in Moscow.

Earlier this week, Finkel was denied a three-month

visa to go abroad for the birth of their baby.

The couple wants the child to be born outside the Soviet Union. Graham has said she will leave alone for the birth if necessary, and time is running out. Apparently, airlines have told her they will not allow her to travel in her condition after the first week in November.

"Things are getting pretty desperate for her," Anna Mae Graham said Tuesday. "I talked with her this morning by phone. She didn't want to give me any details by phone of what happened, but she said they were both at home now."

"She said 'Don't worry, Mom. I'm all right.' But of course it's difficult not to worry."

Susan and a group of several other Americans married to Soviet citizens have tried several times to gain an audience with Reagan to discuss their plights, but such a meeting has not been granted. They believe

issues such as this often are resolved when American leaders make direct appeals to Soviet leaders at the highest levels, bypassing the bureaucracies.

Anna Mae Graham said that when she told her daughter by phone that Reagan would be in Spokane, Susan urged her to try to see him.

"I've called Gorton's office and (Congressman) Tom Foley's office to try to get their help in arranging something," Anna Mae Graham said.

Susan Graham has enlisted some other powerful help in her cause. American industrialist Armand Hammer made headlines a few weeks ago when he successfully interceded with the Soviets to release Soviet "refusenik" David Goldfarb and his wife.

On a CBS Morning News interview concerning the Goldfarb release, Hammer said he would do his best to win Finkel's release so he could be with Susan for the birth of their baby.

WEDNESDAY, OCT 29, 1986

THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

PAGE A6

SPOKANE-REGIONAL

OBITUARIES/A9

Robert H. Graham

E. 1627 Rockwood Blvd., Spokane, WA 99203
(509)535-8348 or (509)292-2680

October 29, 1985

Senator Daniel J. Evans
U. S. Senate
Washington, D.C., 20510

Dear Senator Evans:

I am writing to you on behalf of our daughter, Susan Graham, who is married to Soviet citizen, Matvey Finkel. Susan and Matvey will celebrate their 7th wedding anniversary on December 11th. Since before their marriage Matvey has applied for permission to emigrate from the Soviet Union in order to live here in the United States with Susan. He has been denied permission to date.

Currently there is a "Dear Colleague" letter being circulated in the Senate on behalf of 25 couples who are asking permission for the Russian spouse to emigrate and are currently being denied that permission. The letter is being sponsored by Sen. Paul Simon of Illinois. His staffperson, Jill Goldenberg, is handling the circulation of this letter.

In 1981 a similar letter was sponsored by Sen. Henry Jackson and Sen. Slade Gorton on behalf of our daughter. Congressman Thomas Foley has also been very active in assisting us in any way he can.

I am enclosing copies of some of the correspondence we have received concerning this "Dear Colleague" letter. We would appreciate it very much if you would sign this letter as our senator. Thank you in advance for your help.

Sincerely,

Anna Mae Graham
Mrs. Robert H. (Anna Mae) Graham

11 pages

*11/1/85
Evans says "yes"
C. Dawson & Larry Spina
will prepare & execute
Telephoned Mrs. G.
She is extremely happy.*

Spokanite to Soviets: Free father

SR 9/13/82

Knight-Ridder

WASHINGTON — The pregnant young Spokane woman stood Friday in front of the microphones, blinked back tears and talked of her hopes that her Soviet husband would be allowed to join her before their first child is born in December.

"I want my child to know his father is more than just a photograph or a voice on the telephone," said Susan Graham, her voice breaking. "I hope the Soviets will allow Matvey to come out and join me before our baby is born."

Graham is among a group of people who are perhaps the most innocent, tragic victims of the new Cold War — two dozen Americans whose Soviet spouses are locked away behind the borders of the USSR by the restrictive emigration policies of the Soviet government.

A group of these "divided spouses" was in Washington to confer with State Department officials and to attempt to meet with Soviet diplomats.

Members of the group said they were assured by Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead that the issue of divided spouses would be raised by Secretary of State George Shultz when he meets his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze, later this year.

From there, the group went to Capitol Hill for a press conference that began with the showing of a videotape of some of their Soviet family members at a picnic in Moscow this summer.

As the camera panned the crowd and paused for a moment on a small boy, 88-year-old Anatoly Michelson of Sarasota, Fla., half rose in his chair.

"That's my grandson," he said, his eyes clouding with emotion. Michelson stared at the screen, then sank back into his chair.

As the press conference was breaking up, the group got word that their request for a meeting with Soviet officials had been granted — sort of. The Soviets had agreed to a meeting — but on Monday, when most of the group will have left Washington, and with a consular official rather than the ambassador.

Undeterred, the group piled into taxis and headed to the Soviet Embassy, where first Andrea Wine of Cranbury, N.J., and then Braun approached the locked gate. Braun was allowed inside.

He emerged a few minutes later with mixed news. "We have been offered a meeting on Monday with a consular official. If we don't leave they will call the police on us."

The group quickly backed away from the embassy.

"Well, at least they recognize the need to meet with us," said Lavigne with one last look at the gray stone embassy. "That's a step forward."

Soviets warn Spokanite's husband Authorities take swift action to make sure he stays in Moscow

SR 9/15/82 Pg. 1

MOSCOW (AP) — A member of a group of Soviets trying to join their American spouses said Sunday the KGB secret police warned him the group must stop its public activities or exit visas for two members might be held up for months.

Matvey Finkel, married to Susan Graham of Spokane, said he was interrogated Friday and Saturday by KGB officers and told to cancel plans to travel to Riga, Latvia, to deliver a letter of protest to a U.S.-Soviet conference that opens there today.

"They said that if I continue to try to go to Riga, I will be imprisoned," Finkel said.

Authorities took his internal passport and driver's license to make sure he does not leave Moscow, he said.

Finkel said he was questioned Friday for five hours about his wife and her family. He said officials confiscated an open letter to Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev, President Reagan and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher that he planned to deliver to the U.S.-Soviet conference.

The letter appealed for help in the divided families' cause, Finkel said.

More than 200 American participants were expected at the conference. The Chautauqua Institute in upstate New York

is overseeing American participation at it.

Finkel said KGB officers questioned him at length Saturday about the activities of the divided families group, which writes letters, talks to Western reporters and stages demonstrations to back members' demands for emigration visas.

"They tried to find out who is the leader of our group and whose idea it was to go to Riga," Finkel said. "I said it was my idea and I bought the ticket."

The interrogators told Finkel "to tell everybody in the group that if we try to continue our activity, it will be bad for (Roman) Kuperman and (Tamara) Tre-

tyakova," two members who were promised exit visas last week.

"They will delay their visas for months," Finkel said. "They said that if I don't want to do something bad to them (Kuperman and Tretyakova), I have to stop my activities and tell other people to do so too."

Kuperman is married to Francis L. Pergerich of Chicago, Ill.

Tretyakova is the wife of Simon Levin, of Deerfield, Ill., who emigrated from the Soviet Union in 1978 and became a naturalized U.S. citizen. The couple have an 8-year-old son who lives in Moscow with his mother.

2851982 - 008
Feb 15 1982
To: Herde

Graham

Wife convinced pressure needed to free spouse

By MICHAEL MURPHEY

Of the Chronicle

Even though uncertainty is the fundamental characteristic of the mind-wracking maze which Susan Graham's world has become in the past three years, there is one thing of which she can feel certain:

If her husband ever does gain his freedom from the Soviet Union, it will not be a result of the good will or magnanimity of the Soviet bureaucracy.

If Matvey Finkel is ever going to be granted permission by the Soviets to emigrate to America, she feels, it will be the result of some prodding, some request, some activity by her, by Matvey, by politicians, by the U.S. State Department, by the American public — by someone.

It won't happen of its own accord. Something must be done.

But what?

Looking to logic or trying to find a clue in the reasons behind the Soviet refusals is, according to an expert in Soviet human rights issues, an exercise in futility.

"If they wanted to resolve the case, they would resolve it," said Meg Donovan, a staff assistant to the Helsinki Commission. "They are just incredibly arbitrary and capricious."

So the inescapable need to do something becomes enmeshed in the gnawing realization that to do anything could be to do the wrong thing. And doing the wrong thing could diminish the hope that Susan Graham and Matvey Finkel can one day live together freely as man and wife.

In the meantime, Graham and Finkel are being swept along by events over which neither of them has any control. Finkel's friend, Sergei Petrov, was reportedly near death as the result of a hunger strike which he began on June 2. According to wire service accounts, Petrov ended his hunger strike today.

Like Finkel, Petrov is married to an American citizen and has been refused permission to leave the Soviet Union. Finkel originally had planned to join Petrov in the protest, but Graham dissuaded him.

Having bowed to hunger strikers before, the Soviets apparently took a hard line in the Petrov case. And while Finkel did not join in the starvation protest, he has not disassociated himself

married to foreigners was to begin.

Seven Soviet citizens, all married to Western spouses and all denied permission to leave the USSR, have been involved in the hunger strikes.

Of the group which began its protest in May, four were granted permission to leave, although only one — Andrei Frolov, husband of Lois Becker Frolov of Chicago — has actually made it out of the USSR.

On June 21, Yuri Balovlenkov, husband of Elena Kusmenko, a Baltimore, Md., nurse, ended a 43-day fast after being told he could leave. But after he halted his strike, the Soviets apparently changed their minds. He resumed his fast on July 5, and reportedly continued fasting today.

On June 2, Petrov, who is married to Virginia Johnson of Flat Rock, N.C., began his own hunger strike. He ended his fast on the 51st day today, telling wire service reporters by phone

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from his Moscow apartment that he quit voluntarily to avoid putting his wife, relatives and friends through further pain.

Finkel had planned to join Petrov in that hunger strike, but State Department officials were counseling against that strategy. Their reasoning was that the Soviets had already capitulated to hunger strikers and would not want to give the impression that they would continue to give in.

Graham had to weigh this reasoning against the knowledge that the State Department has been counseling against hunger strikes all along.

And both Graham and Finkel were well aware of the case of Lois and Andrei Frolov.

The State Department had advised Lois Becker Frolov to talk her husband out of his hunger strike. They told her the publicity Mrs. Frolov attracted when she went on a fast in support of her husband would only hurt his cause. And they suggested that the filing of a lawsuit against the Soviets in U.S. District Court on Frolov's behalf could be disastrous.

Lois and Andrei Frolov, however, rejected all the advice, and the Soviets released him.

But in early June, reluctantly, Graham called her husband and dissuaded him from joining Petrov.

"When we first made the decision we definitely were not going to be involved in the hunger strike," Graham said, "for a couple of weeks it really bothered me. I think circumstances have shown lately that we probably made the right decision."

Early this month, the Soviets held a press conference with Western newsmen to discuss the cases of Balovlenkov and Petrov. A press conference to respond officially to the protests of

Soviet citizens was unprecedented.

In the press conference, a Soviet emigration official issued a long justification of the denial of Balovlenkov and Petrov's requests to leave. He said the attention Western diplomats and correspondents gave the two men amounted to "direct interference in internal Soviet affairs."

He also accused the American Embassy of inciting Russians married to Americans to protest. This was done, he said, at a lunch for the Soviet spouses given last December.

The official said Balovlenkov and Petrov would be allowed to reapply for exit visas in six months, and then said their wives could join their husbands in Moscow if they chose to do so.

Both wives went to Moscow this week, but rejected the offer to stay with their husbands.

"I have a big family in the United States," Petrov's wife dryly told reporters in Moscow. "The point of this is family reunification. I don't think I could convince them to move here."

Petrov, 29, had reportedly withered to skin and bone and is too weak to leave his bed before ending his fast.

Elena Balovlenkov has asked Soviet officials to hospitalize her husband and force feed him in order to save his life. But Balovlenkov, 33, said he will starve himself to death if not allowed to leave the Soviet Union.

Against this backdrop of events, Graham will go to Washington, D.C., next week.

She feels better now about the efforts of U.S. Sen. Henry Jackson and U.S. Rep. Tom Foley on her behalf. At first, she was uncertain of the vigor with which they were supporting her cause, but now, she says, there are indications that both men have made the issue a priority. In Jackson's office in particular, staff members speak of their admiration for Graham's determination and courage.

Graham hopes that the Soviet's willingness to allow Elena Balovlenkov and Virginia Petrov to go to Moscow means she, too, will be able to go and stay with her husband while his case is being resolved. In the past, the Soviets have repeatedly denied her a visitors visa.

And she will continue to counsel her husband to be cautious.

"My great concern has been and always will be my husband's safety," she said. "I'm always concerned that what I do or say might have a negative effect on him personally or his case in general. That's one of the reasons I've decided to proceed rather conservatively."

Before going, she will try to urge the people of Spokane to write letters to Anatoly Dobrynin, Soviet Ambassador to the United States, and ask that Finkel be freed. And she hopes that her friends here fully understand the depth of the dangerous human drama which is being played



Susan Graham: living with mind-wracking uncertainty.

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they knew their lives
would not be easy.**

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from his friend. He has been with Petrov during much of the ordeal, so he may be associated with the protest in the mind of Soviet officialdom.

But, "Sergi's been a good friend," Graham explained, "and you don't turn you back on a good friend just because suddenly he is viewed unfavorably by the government. This is the sort of thing you do not on a political level, but on a personal level."

"It's hard to know what to do," she added. "Every case seems to be different. Some things work for certain people, and then they don't work for you. But I think that's part of the Soviet's plan, so that no one knows what's going to work and what doesn't."

Susan Graham, 26, and Matvey Finkel, 33, were married three years ago in Moscow. Before his marriage and his subsequent request to emigrate to the United States, he was an engineer. Now he does mechanical repair work.

They met in 1977 while Graham was a student in the Soviet Union, studying the Russian Language. When she returned to Moscow with a group of Whitworth College students in 1978, they decided to marry. It was 16 months before official Soviet permission was given for the marriage and before she could obtain the necessary visa to get back to the Soviet Union.

They were married in 1979. In the almost three years that have passed, they have spent little more than three months together.

When they married, they knew their lives would not be easy. Marriage between Russian citizens and foreigners, particularly Americans, is discouraged by the Soviets. They recognized it would take time and persistence to win permission for Finkel to leave the USSR.

"We looked into it," Graham explained. "Statistically, we felt like we were pretty well off. Only 5 percent of the people in marriages like this have had trouble emigrating."

Six times, though, Finkel has been denied permission to leave. They have also sought permission to live together in the Soviet Union, but Graham's requests for a visitor's visa have all been denied.

She has been able to go to Moscow only on tourist visas which limit her stay to two weeks in any one Russian city. When she overstayed her most recent tourist visa while waiting for an extension, she was assisted out of the country by the KGB.

In May, a group of four men picked her up near her husband's Moscow apartment, hustled her to the airport and hid her from a representative from the U.S. Embassy until they could get her onto an airplane bound for the United States.

Staff members of the Helsinki Review Committee say it was probably not coincidental that Graham was forced to leave the Soviet Union on May 8, two days before a well-publicized hunger strike by a group of six Soviet citizens who are

strike," Graham said, "for a couple of days. It really bothered me. I think circumstances have shown lately that we probably made the right decision."

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After a year of struggling, 11 days together

By MICHAEL MURPHEY
Staff writer

Eleven days might not seem like much.

Not much of a payoff for a year of worrying whether a false step might make the difference between freedom and a lifetime of separation.

Not much of a reward for 12 months of navigating red tape, jumping through bureaucratic hoops, knocking on embassy doors, jousting with State Department officials, hiking the halls of Congress and convincing people that you aren't going to just go away.

A lifetime would be better than just 11 days.

But for now, Susan Graham will take what she can get.

"There was a time when I thought 11 days wouldn't even have been worth the expense of the trip to Moscow," Graham said Monday. "But now, it was, 'Oh boy, 11 whole days!'"

Graham, 27, of Spokane has been married to Matvey Finkel, 34, of Moscow, U.S.S.R., for three and a half years.

Her 11 days in the Soviet Union last month brought their time together during those three and a half years to not quite three and a half months.

And since she was expelled from the Soviet Union on May 8, 1983, Graham often has wondered whether the Soviets might never let her back into Russia.

FOR 12 MONTHS Graham was constantly denied



SUSAN GRAHAM AND MATVEY FINKEL

in a bad mood.

More frustrating, Graham said, "Is the likelihood that it's not a question of Reagan's or Andropov's bad mood, but the bad mood Ivan Ivanovich may be in — some totally faceless bureaucrat who might not pass our request along to the next bureaucrat because he had a fight with his wife the night before."

Graham and Finkel married in Moscow in December 1979.

THEY MET IN 1977 while she was in Leningrad as a Russian language student. Both knew the Soviets discourage the marriage of Soviet citizens to foreigners. And they knew the fact he is Jewish might complicate matters.

But they didn't anticipate the extent of the ordeal.

Six times Finkel has been denied

D.C., last summer. Although her master's degree in linguistics would have qualified her as an interpreter, she took a part-time evening job as a waitress so her days would be free to make the rounds of governmental offices.

IN MOSCOW, Finkel, an engineer, has been unemployed for a year.

Although Graham believes Finkel is watched closely, she says he has not suffered overt harassment.

"Other spouses have said their husbands are being harassed and threatened," Graham said Monday. "But as far as I know, Matvey has not really been subjected to that."

"On the other hand, maybe that's

due to the fact that there has been some publicity about us, and the Russians understand that if anything happens to my husband, I'll scream bloody murder."

The most unsettling event of the year occurred in January when the U.S. Embassy invited Finkel to a diplomatic reception to meet U.S. Rep. Don Bonker, D-Wash., who was visiting Moscow.

ALSO INVITED, however, was Igor Andropov, son of Yuri Andropov.

Finkel did not show up. He phoned the embassy the next day to explain that two officers from the Moscow criminal police had come to his apartment and told him he

could not leave that evening.

They cited a new city statute for strengthening preservation of public order.

When he refused to promise he would stay in, he said, the men stood outside his apartment building for much of the evening.

Graham suspects the Soviets wanted to make sure there was no embarrassing confrontation between the son of their leader and a Russian Jew who had been identified with the hunger-strike movement.

The year Graham spent in Washington, D.C., was a year devoted to quietly making her plight known and making sure whenever Ameri-

cans and Soviets meet, Matvey Finkel's name comes up.

SHE IS BACK in Spokane now, and plans to remain at least until the fall.

"I'm sort of tired of the gypsy life," she said. "I just don't know what else there is to do in Washington. After seeing Matvey, everything else is sort of anti-climactic anyway, so I sort of feel like it's mission accomplished for a while."

On June 2, Finkel again officially applied to emigrate, and Graham is optimistic something may happen this summer. If his military service is a legitimate issue, she reasons, 10 years seems a logical release point.

Three young men have been arrested in connection with a robbery in Riverfront Park late Tuesday night.

The arrests were made shortly after midnight several blocks from the park.

Michael Gooch, 20, W29 Second, is being held in the Spokane County Jail on \$10,500 bond. He was charged with first-degree robbery and intimidation with a weapon.

Shaun Schuerger, 20, W708 Augusta, was charged with first-degree robbery and released on his own recognizance.

A 17-year-old was also charged with first-degree robbery. He was turned over to juvenile authorities and police did not indicate whether he was released.

Online said none of the unknown reported after

and improve its water quality.

Soltero, an expert on Eastern Washington lakes who has spent eight years studying Medical Lake, said he proposes to install an aeration device in the deepest part of lake, about 60 feet. He said he wants to study the effects of aeration in hopes it will provide a long-term program to restore the lake.

Soltero told the council Tuesday night that a device would suck water from the oxygen-poor depths of the lake and mix it with water higher in oxygen content.

are said 75 percent of the money needed will be sought from state lake restoration funds and 25 percent from the federal Bureau of Reclamation.

100-443887-100

The manager of a Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant was robbed at gunpoint late Wednesday night as she attempted to make a night deposit at the Washington Trust Bank at Shanna and Monroe.

The robber confronted the store manager with a snub-nose pistol at about 11:45 p.m., police said.

Police described the male suspect as being about 6 feet 2, wearing a black sweater, blue jeans and gray ski mask.

The suspect, who obtained an unknown amount of cash, was last seen running through the alley of Indiana and Monroe, police said.

The name of the store manager and the relevant outlet were not immediately available.

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OLYMPIA (AP) — A Washington state congressman says he tried to meet with the Russian husband of a Spokane woman but failed when Soviet police threatened the man.

Rep. Don Bonker, D-Wash., said he was scheduled to meet with Matuey Finkel in the U.S. Embassy, but Finkel abruptly canceled the meeting with no explanation.

Bonker was chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Human Rights when he visited the Soviet Union in January. Embassy officials told Bonker that he learned that the meeting was canceled the meeting with no explanation.

Embassy officials told Bonker later they learned Finkel was visited by two Soviet security policemen who threatened him with a loss of freedom and rights if he "persisted in meeting Westerners."

Bonker said embassy officials believe the Soviet authorities didn't want Finkel to be at the embassy because new premier Yuri Andropov's son, Igor, was scheduled to attend a reception there.

Finkel is the husband of Susan Graham of Spokane. They were married in the Soviet Union while Graham was studying there in 1979, but Soviet officials refused to give Finkel a visa. Graham, who now lives near

D.C., had asked Bonker to help persuade the Russian government to allow Finkel to join her in the United States.

Bonker said the elder Andropov has increased the grip the government has on the Russian people. But Bonker...

But Bonker, who also visited other Communist countries, found more repression in Romania than in Russia.

Romania "is one of the most repressive countries in the world today," he said. Bonker was told by...

Bonker was told by Nicolae Ceausescu, president and general secretary of the Romanian Communist Party, "that the United States has no business meddling in Romania's internal affairs."

Hungary, on the other hand, had a great deal of freedom, Bonker said.

"There's even a market economy with a lot of signs of capitalism in all the shops we saw there," he said.

The Hungarians, however, "toe the Moscow line 100 percent in foreign policy," he said.

And since she was expelled from the Soviet Union on May 8, 1982, Graham often has wondered whether the Soviets might never let her back into Russia.

FOR 12 MONTHS Graham was repeatedly denied permission to return. In April, inexplicably, her request to spend a week in Leningrad was approved. Once there, her visa was extended a week and she was allowed to go to Moscow.

So on May 9, 1983, precisely a year after she was kicked out of the Soviet Union, Susan Graham was back with her husband.

It was a less eventful visit than the previous one.

"We didn't go to see anybody," she said. "We decided to make it totally apolitical and just enjoy each other's company while we could."

Although the 11 days were a respite from her crusade to win her husband's freedom to leave the Soviet Union, the unexplained reversal in the Soviets' refusal to grant a visa was unsettling.

Susan Graham's visa was unexplained — again raising the question of whether there is any method to the plottings of the Soviet bureaucracy.

"We keep hoping," Graham said in February, "that there really are some rules to the game, that some magic date will pass or some requirement be fulfilled and he'll be free to go."

IT IS MORE frustrating to think that their fate is a matter of whim. Graham's hopes were raised, for example, when Yuri Andropov took over Soviet leadership in November. Traditionally, a change in leadership is a time for diplomatic initiatives and conciliatory gestures.

But Ronald Reagan and Andropov only growled at each other. It was a bedpace feeling to think their life might hinge on fallout from a statement made by a president, or secretary general who was

But they didn't anticipate the extent of the ordeal.

Six times Finkel has been denied permission to leave, and the Soviets' only explanation has been that ex-members of the Soviet military — Finkel served a mandatory two years in the army — cannot leave for a certain time period, although they have not specified what that period is.

In November, Finkel will have been separated from the army 10 years.

The most eventful year of their marriage began March 29, 1982, when Graham arrived in Moscow on a tourist visa which expired April 15. Once there, she applied for an extension that would allow her to remain for a year.

WHILE WAITING for the extension, she over-stayed her visa. On May 8 she was picked up by four men in a black sedan, rushed to the Moscow airport, hidden in a small room from a U.S. embassy official who was looking for her, and hustled onto a plane to the United States.

When Graham got back to Spokane, she was tired of going through channels. She called a news conference to focus attention on her problem.

Several of Finkel's friends, other Soviet citizens with foreign spouses, went on a highly publicized hunger strike to bring world pressure on the Soviets. Graham and Finkel agitated over whether he should participate.

At the urging of U.S. Sen. Henry Jackson, U.S. Rep. Tom Foley and the State Department, they decided to go back to bureaucratic channels and a low profile.

To pod the bureaucracy, Graham moved to Washington,

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Russian husband again denied exit permission

By MICHAEL MURPHEY 6/5/82
Of the Chronicle

A Spokane woman's Russian husband has been denied for the sixth time permission to leave the Soviet Union and come to the United States.

Susan Graham, 26, received the disappointing phone call from her husband, Matvey Finkel, early yesterday morning.

"He called and said he'd gotten another denial," Graham said. "He has to wait six months before he can apply again."

In an hour-long telephone conversation with a U.S. State Department official following her husband's call, Graham was told the Soviets might be resisting Finkel's emigration because they suspect their marriage is merely a "marriage of convenience" intended only to get Finkel out of the Soviet Union.

"I don't see how anyone can think that after 2 1/2 years," she said. "If this was just a marriage of convenience, we would've given it up long ago."

"I really resent that suggestion, particularly if there are American officials who believe that. It's one thing if that's the stance the Soviets want to take, because they can believe anything they want."

"But if officials of the American government believe that — well, I can't believe they would believe it after 2 1/2 years."

Yesterday's disappointing development was the latest in a long series of frustrations for Graham and Finkel that include her experience in May of being picked up by an official of the KGB in Moscow and hustled out of the country.

In the past month, the State Department, U.S. Sen. Henry Jackson and U.S. Rep. Tom Foley all have

advised Graham to be patient. They have warned her against making diplomatic waves, against taking strong public stances or attempting to have resolutions of support passed in Congress.

They advise her to rely on the quiet diplomatic process they say is her husband's best chance for release.

But she points out that for almost three years, that patient diplomatic process has failed consistently.

"One of the hardest things about all this," she confided today, "is that I not only have to fight the Soviet government on this issue, but I sometimes feel I have to fight my own government, too."

"The most frustrating thing to me is that some American officials give me the impression they feel the Soviets somehow have the right to do this. But there is absolutely no justification for it."

"Why it is not just condemned across the board by U.S. officials, I don't understand."

Susan Graham and Matvey Finkel were married in December 1979. They met while she was studying the Russian language at the University of Leningrad in 1977.

She had traveled to the Soviet Union previously, the first time when she was 15, drawn to the country because of her interest in Russian.

Graham and Finkel struck up an acquaintance during her 1977 spring vacation trip to Moscow. They met because Finkel has an uncle who lives in Spokane.

They saw each other again in 1978 when she was on a trip to Moscow with a group of Whitworth College students. They decided to marry, but she had to return to the United States and wait 18 months for the Soviet government to approve the marriage.

Marriage between Russians and foreign citizens is

discouraged by the Soviets, and Graham says she and her husband recognized it would take time for him to get permission to emigrate to the United States.

But their research showed that 95 percent of the Soviet citizens who have married foreign citizens have been allowed to emigrate, with most of the problems being experienced by those who have highly placed relatives or who have worked in sensitive jobs. Neither of those factors apply in Finkel's case.

During the past three years, they have also attempted to live together in Moscow, but those efforts, too, have been rejected by the Soviets. In their three years of marriage, they have been together only about three months accumulated in two and three-week intervals while she visited Russia on tourist visas.

Her most recent visit ended in May when she was picked up by four Soviet officials near her husband's Moscow apartment, hustled to the airport and put on a plane to the United States.

By the time she arrived back in Spokane, Graham decided she had been patient long enough. She asked Jackson, Foley and Sen. Slade Gorton to introduce a joint resolution in Congress expressing support for her husband and attempting to pressure the Soviets into releasing him.

Jackson, Foley and the State Department all advised her not to pursue that course but to maintain a low profile. Ironically, on the same day Finkel's most recent emigration application was denied, a Soviet citizen named Andrei Frolov was granted emigration status.

Frolov is a member of a group of Soviet spouses on a hunger strike. His wife, Lois Becker of Chicago, filed a lawsuit against the Soviets 10 days before his release,

and Sen. Robert Dole of Kansas had introduced a Congressional resolution expressing support for hunger strikers.

But yesterday, Jackson's office and the State Department still were telling Graham to be patient. State Department official suggested the Soviets may be viewing her marriage as a marriage of convenience.

There have been cases in which American citizens often young women studying in the Soviet Union, marry Soviet men only for the purpose of gaining the Soviet citizen's emigration.

Sometimes the American citizen is an unwitting partner, feeling genuinely that the Soviet spouse loves them. Other times, the marriage is arranged for a fee.

Graham says she recognizes that there may be so much appearance of that in this case because her husband who is Jewish, tried to get permission to emigrate to Israel before they were married, and because of relatives in Spokane. And it occurs to her that some of the American officials she has dealt with also may have a question in their minds about the sincerity of her marriage.

But she thinks her 2 1/2 years of travel, frustration and sacrifice should be evidence enough of the genuineness of their love.

"The State Department suggested the Soviets thought it's not a marriage of convenience on my part, but it is on my husband's part," she said. "I feel very insulted by that."

"It makes him appear to be some sort of shady character, and it makes me appear stupid enough to fall for something like that."

Comment

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Thursday, June 3, 1971

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Susan Graham doing battle with two governments

Are Susan Graham's representatives in Congress working for her or against her? It's hard to tell.

Congressman Tom Foley and U.S. Sen. Henry M. Jackson have persuaded the Spokane woman not to push for a congressional resolution calling on the Soviet Union to let her husband, Matvey Finkel, emigrate. The two influential federal lawmakers have advised Graham to be patient. They can help her more effectively if she lets them do things their way, the diplomatic way, they have told her.

As an American citizen married to a Soviet citizen, Graham may understand better than any of us the value of a political structure in which government works for the people and takes its direction from the citizens rather than the other way around. But her frustrations with the Soviet system, which is keeping her and her Russian husband apart, are being compounded now when her own government is telling her to calm down, to be patient.

After three years of working through the normal channels, both here and in the Soviet Union, Graham must feel she has demonstrated an admirable amount of patience already. But she has nothing to show for it.

The normal channels have included six applications by Finkel for permission to leave his country and six rejections. The normal channels have included repeated contacts with Jackson's and Foley's offices.

The normal channels had not included — until

last month — public appeals through the news media for support. Only at that point, interestingly enough, did either of the federal lawmakers ever contact their constituent directly.

But the contact, a call from Jackson, produced nothing new beyond the senator's personal involvement. He encouraged her to be patient. She agreed.

Meanwhile, the Associated Press in Moscow has reported that Soviet authorities will grant visas to at least two of seven Soviet citizens who are fasting until their government lets them join spouses outside the Iron Curtain.

It isn't the first time the Soviet government has shown itself susceptible to the pressure of highly publicized human-rights protests. Dissident An-

drei Sakharov and his wife staged a 17-day hunger strike that resulted last December in an exit visa for Mrs. Sakharov's daughter-in-law whose husband was waiting in Massachusetts.

Yet Foley and Jackson, when they were asked to rally their congressional colleagues in a formal appeal on Graham's behalf, counseled caution so as not to rile the Russians. It might do more harm than good, they warned.

Understandably, that message captured Graham's attention. She personally experienced the Soviet government's style when its agents abruptly escorted her away from her Moscow apartment and out of the country one day last month.

Yet Foley and Jackson offered no alternative plan other than to wait — to wait for U.S.-Soviet tensions to thaw, perhaps as a result of strategic arms reduction talks scheduled to begin June 25.

Graham and Finkel represent an allegorical kind of innocence. Their politics, if they have any, are buried deep under the surface. They are willing to live in Russia or in the United States, as long as it is together. Finkel gave up an engineering career and became a mechanic to improve his chances of obtaining an exit visa.

Now their simple plea to be united has been linked to the paramount international political issue of the day. Susan Graham had a right to expect more than that from the world's foremost representative government.