

Executive Statements on Behalf

of

Anatoliy Shcharanskiy

July 14, 1978

Extract of Presidential Remarks at an informal Q & A session at the Chancellory, Bonn, Germany, July 14, 1978:

Q: Could you tell us what you think about the Ginzburg trial and the Scharanskiy verdict of the Soviet Union?

The President:

It is obvious to us that the courageous dissidents of the Soviet Union, Mr. Scharanskiy and Mr. Ginzburg have been accused and tried and punished, will be punished, because they have supported those who sought the basic freedoms that were guaranteed in the Final Act of the Helsinki Agreement which was signed voluntarily by the Soviet Union itself and because they supported basic commitments that are also guaranteed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which the Soviet Union and other members of the United Nations have publicly and officially endorsed. We deplore this action on the part of the Soviet authorities.

Our sympathies and our support remain with Mr. Scharanskiy, Mr. Arlov, and with Ginzburg and others. Obviously we have no mechanism or any desire to interfere on internal affairs of the Soviet Union but the arousing of public condemnation around the world for the violation of these principals of human freedom is a legitimate role for me as a leader for the people of our country.

We seek in spite of this adverse circumstance to cooperate with the Soviet Union whenever possible. We are continuing to make progress in some areas which are crucial to the safety of

the world. Secretary Vance has just returned from a constructive meeting with the Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union on the SALT agreement. I will be visiting Berlin which is now benefiting from the Quadripartite Agreement which is supported by the Soviet Union and the Western allies.

So we do condemn this action of the Soviet Union at the same time we want to continue a peaceful relationship with all countries and our voice will not be stilled as we consider these violations and others around the world of basic human rights.

July 8, 1978

Statement by Secretary Vance on Shcharanskiy and Ginzburg Trials:

During the past two days we have learned that next week the Soviet Union will start the trials of several prominent dissidents. These men and women of uncommon courage are being put on trial on a number of pretexts. In truth, they are being tried for asserting fundamental human rights -- to speak out and to petition and criticize their Government -- rights guaranteed in international agreements entered into by their Government.

These trials, with their lack of due process, violate fundamental principles of justice.

I reflect the deepest feelings and values of the American people when I deplore these events.

They inevitably affect the climate of our relations and pose obstacles to the building of confidence and cooperation

in Geneva are unchanged. We will persist in our efforts to negotiate a sound SALT II Agreement because it is in our national interest and in the interest of world peace to do so.

I have often expressed to Soviet authorities our deep concern about Soviet treatment of dissidents. I shall do so again next week.

In light of these developments we have taken certain actions. Yesterday I asked Barbara Blum, Deputy Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and her delegation to cancel their trip to the Soviet Union. I have today, at the President's direction, instructed the President's Science Advisor, Frank Press, and his delegation to do likewise.

Let me say finally that the struggle for basic human freedom is not a short-term effort. We will persevere because of our enduring belief in the dignity of the individual.

June 13, 1977

Press Conference No. 9 of the President of the United States:

Q: Mr. President, to follow up on your remarks about human rights, Mrs. Anatoly Scharanskiy, the wife of the Soviet dissident who is under arrest is visiting in the United States and yesterday she expressed interest in seeing you to ask you to intervene in this case.

I would like to ask, do you think that this sort of thing can be useful, and do you plan to see her?

The President:

I don't have any plans to meet Mrs. Scharanskiy, but I have inquired deeply within the State Department and within the CIA as to whether or not Mr. Scharanskiy has ever had any known

relationship in a subversive way or otherwise with the CIA. The answer is no. We have double-checked this and I have been hesitant to make that public announcement, but now I am completely convinced that contrary to the allegations that have been reported in the press, that Mr. Scharanskiy has never had any sort of relationship to our knowledge with the CIA.

Q: May I follow that up, Mr. President? Some of the people who have been arrested have said you have ceased to talk about particular cases, that you just speak now about human rights in general and that has left them victim to the Soviet crackdown.

Have you, in fact, ceased to come to the defense of people like Mr. Slepak and Mr. Scharanskiy?

The President:

Well, you just mentioned three cases, and--maybe you mentioned four. I've commented on all of those, and I think that it's important for the world to monitor what goes on in the Soviet Union. I have not avoided a reference both publicly and privately to the Soviet Union on specific cases, and I intend to continue to do so.

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July 16, 1979