

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 30

Approved January 21, 1974

Resolved,

That

WHEREAS, Alexander Solzhenitsyn was imprisoned for ten years in a slave labor camp in the Soviet Union without an attorney, without a trial and without even being able to confront his accusers; and

WHEREAS, he has revealed an extensive slave labor prison camp system containing approximately twelve million persons in Communist Russia; and

WHEREAS, said system has caused over twenty million deaths, not to mention millions of tortures, mental breakdowns and cruelties; and

WHEREAS, it has been pointed out that the lack of applied justice in this system under the Communist rule is the most harsh, affecting the greatest number of people by death, torture and maiming in the recorded history of mankind and in the history of man's inhumanity to man; and

WHEREAS, these cruelties are a thousand times greater than those of the Czar, and even greater than the most inhumane actions of Hitler and the Nazi leaders; and

WHEREAS, Alexander Solzhenitsyn is in imminent danger of arrest and imprisonment, and possible torture and death

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Providence City Council go on record urging that:

1. Freedom and permission to emigrate be granted to Alexander Solzhenitsyn and his family.
2. Alexander Solzhenitsyn be treated as a hero and fighter for freedom and justice for the workingman against a tremendous bureaucracy which ignored even the legal protections of the Soviet legal system

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution be sent to the President of the United States of America, the Ambassador

to the United States of America from Russia, the American Ambassador to Russia, Secretary of State Kissinger, and to the Rhode Island Congressional Delegation to make known the concern of the Providence City Council for freedom and justice, and against oppression wherever it may exist.

IN CITY COUNCIL

JAN 17 1974

READ AND PASSED

PRES.

Vincent Vespini

CLERK

APPROVED

MAYOR

Joseph A. Doolley Jr.

JAN 21 1974

Cornelius Pearlman

January 24, 1974

Senator Claiborne Pell
325 Old Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Pell:

I submit, by direction of the City Council, the accompanying duly certified copy of Resolution No. 30, approved January 21, 1974, the same being self-explanatory.

Very truly yours,

Vincent Vespia
City Clerk of Providence

VV:pf

Enclosure

J. W. FULBRIGHT, ARK., CHAIRMAN

JOHN SPARKMAN, ALA.
MIKE MANSFIELD, MONT.
FRANK CHURCH, IDAHO
STUART SYMINGTON, MO.
CLAIBORNE PELL, R.I.
GALE W. MCGEE, WYO.
EDMUND S. MUSKIE, MAINE
GEORGE MCGOVERN, S. DAK.
HUBERT H. HUMPHREY, MINN.

GEORGE D. AIKEN, VT.
CLIFFORD P. CASE, N.J.
JACOB K. JAVITS, N.Y.
HUGH SCOTT, PA.
JAMES B. PEARSON, KANS.
CHARLES H. PERCY, ILL.
ROBERT P. GRIFFIN, MICH.

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

CARL MARCY, CHIEF OF STAFF
ARTHUR M. KUHL, CHIEF CLERK

February 14, 1974

Mr. Vincent Vespia
City Clerk of Providence
City Hall
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Dear Mr. Vespia:

Thank you for forwarding a copy of the Resolution adopted by the Providence City Council in support of Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, persecuted because of his courageous defense of human rights in the Soviet Union.

I have long regarded him and his fellow dissenters as the real heroes of our troubled times and said so in the Senate on a number of occasions.

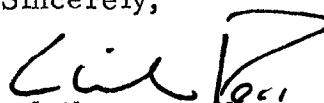
Sharing the concern of the City Council over his situation, I was relieved that at least his personal safety is now assured following his exile to West Germany. For a patriotic Russian, however, he is being asked to pay a cruel price. And the fate of his family remains a tormenting question.

I will continue to support measures calculated to promote respect for human rights in the Soviet Union, including bringing to bear the power of world opinion at the United Nations and other forums. At the Conference on European Security and Cooperation, for instance, the United States must insist on the free exchange of persons and ideas as a condition of East-West detente.

I was glad to hear from the Providence City Council and learn of its concern for a great man willing to risk speaking out for human freedoms and the rule of law.

Warm regards,

Sincerely,


Claiborne Pell

January 24, 1974

Senator John O. Pastore
3215 New Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Pastore:

I submit, by direction of the City Council, the accompanying duly certified copy of Resolution No. 30, approved January 21, 1974, the same being self-explanatory.

Very truly yours,

Vincent Vespia
City Clerk of Providence

WV:pf

Enclosure

MELVIN PRICE, ILL.,
CHAIRMAN
CHET HOLIFIELD, CALIF.
JOHN YOUNG, TEX.
TENO RONCALIO, WYO.
MIKE MCCORMACK, WASH.
CRAIG HOSMER, CALIF.
JOHN B. ANDERSON, ILL.
ORVAL HANSEN, IDAHO
MANUEL LUJAN, JR., N. MEX.
EDWARD J. BAUSER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Congress of the United States
JOINT COMMITTEE ON ATOMIC ENERGY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

JOHN O. PASTORE, R.I.,
VICE CHAIRMAN
HENRY M. JACKSON, WASH.
STUART SYMINGTON, MO.
ALAN BIBLE, NEV.
JOSEPH M. MONTOYA, N. MEX.
GEORGE D. AIKEN, VT.
WALLACE F. BENNETT, UTAH
PETER H. DOMINICK, COLO.
HOWARD H. BAKER, JR., TENN.

January 30, 1974

Mr. Vincent Vespia
City Clerk of Providence
City Hall
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Dear Mr. Vespia:

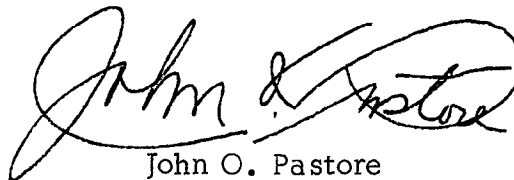
I received your letter of January 24 enclosing the certified copy of the resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Providence with respect to the plight of Alexander Solzhenitsyn and his family.

I agree completely with the sentiments expressed by the members of the City Council in this resolution and I hold Alexander Solzhenitsyn as one of the world's great heroes.

I believe that if the Soviet Union persists in mistreating not only Mr. Solzhenitsyn and his family but other eminent intellectuals, then our chances for detente will fail.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,



John O. Pastore
United States Senator

JOP:mtl

January 24, 1974

Congressman Robert O. Tiernan
217 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D C. 20515

Dear Congressman Tiernan:

I submit, by direction of the City Council, the accompanying duly certified copy of Resolution No. 30, approved January 21, 1974, the same being self-explanatory.

Very truly yours,

Vincent Vespia
City Clerk of Providence

VV:pf

Enclosure

January 24, 1974

Congressman Fernand J. St. Germain
2136 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman St. Germain:

I submit, by direction of the City Council, the accompanying duly certified copy of Resolution No. 30, approved January 21, 1974, the same being self-explanatory.

Very truly yours,

Vincent Vespia,
City Clerk of Providence

VV:pf

Enclosure

FERNAND J. ST GERMAIN
1ST DISTRICT, RHODE ISLAND

2136 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BLDG.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

200 JOHN E. FOGARTY BUILDING
PROVIDENCE, R.I. 02903
TEL.: 528-4323

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

COMMITTEES:
BANKING AND CURRENCY
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON BANK
SUPERVISION AND INSURANCE

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON
SMALL BUSINESS**

January 28, 1974

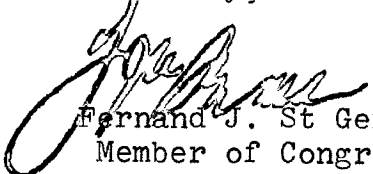
Mr. Vincent Vespia
City Clerk of Providence
City Hall
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Dear Mr. Vespia:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter with an enclosed certified copy of Resolution No. 30 which was approved, on January 21, 1974, by the Providence City Council.

You may rely on my giving the Resolution my careful attention and consideration, and I thank you for keeping me advised on action taken by the City Council.

Sincerely,


Fernand J. St Germain
Member of Congress

FJStG/js

January 24, 1974

Secretary of State, Henry A. Kissinger
Department of State
2201 C Street
Washington, D. C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary of State:

I submit, by direction of the City Council, the accompanying duly certified copy of Resolution No. 30, approved January 21, 1974, the same being self-explanatory.

Very truly yours,

Vincent Vespia
City Clerk of Providence

VV:pf

Enclosure



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

May 1, 1974

Mr. Vincent Vespia
City Clerk
City Hall
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Dear Mr. Vespia:

Secretary Kissinger has asked me to let you know that he appreciated hearing from you. He is most interested in knowing the views of the American people.

The Secretary knows that those who write him are deeply concerned about the problems of our foreign policy at this crucial time, and he would like to be able to send each correspondent a personal reply. He truly regrets that the sheer volume of his mail does not permit this. However, his correspondence is carefully read and noted and he is kept informed of its content.

We have prepared a series of information papers on a wide range of foreign policy topics. I am enclosing material on the subject that you raised with the hope that you will find it useful.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol C. Laise".

Carol C. Laise
Assistant Secretary
for Public Affairs

Enclosure.



PUBLIC INFORMATION SERIES

BUREAU of PUBLIC AFFAIRS

THE PROBLEMS OF ALEXANDER SOLZHENITSYN

Secretary Kissinger has expressed publicly what he called our "human, moral and intellectual" concern for Mr. Solzhenitsyn, whose forced departure from his native Russia evoked worldwide attention and sympathy. Our concern is founded on the importance which we place upon human dignity and individual rights.

The Secretary made it clear that Mr. Solzhenitsyn would be welcome to reside in this country if he so desires. Also, if he wishes to visit the United States, his application for a visa would certainly receive prompt and sympathetic consideration.

Mr. Solzhenitsyn is a respected writer whose first hand acquaintance with forced labor camps in Stalin's time is widely recognized. What he has written in The Gulag Archipelago will doubtless command the attention of readers wherever the book is available. In authorizing publication of The Gulag Archipelago, Mr. Solzhenitsyn exercised the right of freedom of the press, a fundamental right in which we firmly believe. Our attitude on this subject is clearly understood by Soviet authorities.

We do not agree with the suggestion that Soviet treatment of Mr. Solzhenitsyn reveals a failure of our policy of seeking detente with the Soviet Union. We have repeatedly emphasized that our effort to seek a relaxation of tension with the world's other superpower does not imply approval of Soviet internal policies and practices. Detente is based on the presumption that nuclear war is unacceptable. A reduction of this threat and an improvement of the prospects for peace are what we seek to achieve through detente. Such a policy, like our concern for the safety and freedom of Alexander Solzhenitsyn, is rooted in our concern for the well-being and dignity of man.

January 24, 1974

President Richard M. Nixon
White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

I submit, by direction of the City Council, the accompanying duly certified copy of Resolution No. 30, approved January 21, 1974, the same being self-explanatory.

Very truly yours,

Vincent Vespia
City Clerk of Providence

VV:pf

Enclosure

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

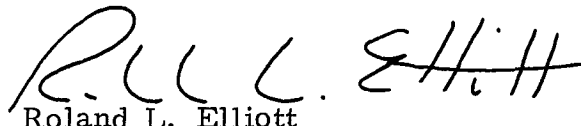
January 30, 1974

Dear Mr. Vespia:

The President has received your letters enclosing the copies of the resolutions adopted by the Providence City Council. He appreciates your courtesy in bringing these expressions of views to his attention.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R. L. Elliott', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Roland L. Elliott
Special Assistant
to the President

Mr. Vincent Vespia
City Clerk
City Hall
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

January 24, 1974

Anatoly F. Dobrynin, Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary
Office of the Embassy
1125 Sixteenth Street
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

I submit, by direction of the City Council, the
accompanying duly certified copy of Resolution No. 30,
approved January 21, 1974, the same being self-explana-
tory.

Very truly yours,

Vincent Vespia
City Clerk of Providence

VV:pf

Enclosure

January 24, 1974

Jacob D. Bean, Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary
American Embassy
Moscow, Russia

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

I submit, by direction of the City Council, the
accompanying duly certified copy of Resolution No. 30,
approved January 21, 1974, the same being self-explana-
tory.

Very truly yours,

Vincent Vespia
City Clerk of Providence

W:pf

Enclosure