

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 12, 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Robert Lipshutz
FROM: Joyce Starr *JRS*
SUBJECT: Proposed Meeting with
Alexander Slepak

Alexander Slepak has requested separate meetings with the President, the Vice President and yourself. I have discussed these requests with Mel Levitsky; we think there may be merit in combining the meetings with the Vice President and yourself, but not in a meeting with the President. Your participation would have the advantage of providing an alternative to the Vice President on future occasions concerning similar requests. But beyond this, I think your own interest in the Slepak case has been demonstrated, and it is appropriate that you be present.

Mel will come by at 3:30 Friday, to discuss the general matter of meetings with ex-refusenicks or dissidents.

26 December

Dear Mr Lipshultz-

I appreciate very much having had the opportunity to meet and discuss with you the critical situation of my family in Moscow. My trip is going to begin east once more on the 4th of January. I am hoping to reach still more people on behalf of the Strepaks, as the situation is not improving. My mother is very bad, she cannot emotionally, nor physically go on any more. Father has been under house arrest three times this month and held for 48 hours over Christmas. Brother Leonid is still in hiding, but how much longer can he remain there? Please, I appreciate your help, but will you continue to do more? I will be in Washington D.C. 23-27 of January and it is

very important that I meet President Carter.

I trust you have personally reminded him of his promise, made during his election campaign one year ago. His position has improved, while my father's has not. It is imperative that I meet personally with President Carter, and I am asking you, as counsel to the President to arrange this meeting, at Mr. Carter's convenience.

The life of my family is at stake, and only Carter's personal help will save them. I appreciate your concern and support earlier on behalf of the Stepak family, and the support of President Carter. Please continue this support.

Thank you very much,
Alexander Stepak

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The Honorable Robert J. Lipshultz
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